Coinage of the Bhonsla Rajas of Nagpur

PRASHANT P. KULKARNI

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As a token of reverence for
his scholarship
Dedicated to
Professor Ajay Mitra Shastri

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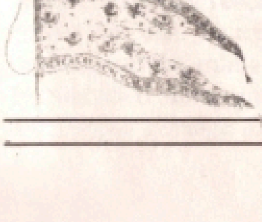

Foreword

The Bhonsla rulers of Nagpur and Orissa were among the most powerful and important of their time. Their territories were extensive, as was their involvement in contemporary politics. Like many other of the ruling houses of 18th and 19th century India, the Bhonslas issued their own coinage, from a number of mints. Until now, little research has been undertaken into the minting activities of the Bhonsla state and even less has been published on the subject. The dearth of activity and information has now been remedied. Having successfully tracked down the unpublished records and reports of the Nagpur Mint in the C. P. Civil Secretariat, Old Records Office at Nagpur, Prashant Kulkarni has been able to use these to put together a cohesive account of an important era in Bhonsla minting activity. He has been able to identify the different coin issues of the Nagpur Mint and the mint-masters who were responsible for their production. One of the reasons that much of the earlier Nagpur coinage has for so long gone unrecognised is the fact that none of the silver rupees bear the mint name *Nagpur.* Those coins copied from the earlier rupees struck at Cuttack are well enough known; to these can now be added a whole series of issues bearing the mint-name *Surat* and copied from that mint. These latter coins seem to have circulated widely in the Nagpur area and it is not surprising that they should have served as the prototype for the initial Nagpur coinage.

This book should not be viewed as an end in itself, but as a starting point for further research. Certain questions have been answered, but others remain. Current knowledge about the minting activity at a number of the mints mentioned in the book is scanty; other as yet unidentified mints probably operated over certain periods; much of the copper coinage requires further study.

It is to be hoped that Mr Kulkarni's endeavours will be a source of inspiration to other researchers and numismatists. The numismatic history of the declining years of the Mughal empire, of the various states that carved territory out of that dying empire, and of the post-Mughal period generally, has, with a few notable exceptions, been badly neglected. The field is very wide, potentially fertile, and waiting to be ploughed.

Stan Goron
Editor,
The Oriental Numismatic Society
London 1990

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A number of friends and colleagues have contributed towards the publication of this book by providing historical information, bringing forward coin collections and in various other ways. Although it is not possible to acknowledge their contribution individually, I wish to record my thanks to them.

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Prashant P. Kulkarni

Preface

The coins of the Bhonsla rulers of Nagpur have never been found in large quantities. As a result, there has not been any systematic study of the coins prior to the publication of this book and indeed our knowledge has generally been limited to the Cuttack rupees struck in the name of the Mughal emperor Ahmad Shah Bahadur, the rupees with mint name *Surat* struck at Chanda and a couple of types of copper coins – the trident type and the double-line type. The rupees have been listed in various catalogues of Mughal coins and together with the copper coins, in certain general catalogues such as those of Krause Publications. To what extent our knowledge of this series has hitherto been limited is revealed by the contents of the collections of several members of the Indian Coin Society. These have yielded a great number of new varieties which form the basis of the present systematic study of the coinage of the Bhonslas.

In all,more than one hundred varieties of Bhonsla coins are discussed in this work. We have also deciphered the mint name *Nagpur* for the first time. This was possible because of the great interest shown by the members of the Indian Coin Society in bringing up new coins to our attention and also because of the systematic details recorded by the former British officers regarding contemporary coinages and currency systems.

The earliest reference to the coinage of Nagpur is mentioned in James Prinsep's *Useful Tables.* His extracts regarding the Nagpur coins were taken from the details given by his predecessors. There are, however, several errors in his work. The diagram of the Nagari figure 9 (which is found on Raghuji III's rupees) given by him is absolutely incorrect. Prinsep had certainly not seen these coins and drew the marks from the verbal information he had been able to get. There is also some confusion in Prinsep's other minor marks. Despite these errors, what Prinsep has mentioned has certainly served as a foundation for the current research in Bhonsla coinage.

Prof Hodivala made an effort to solve the puzzling dates on the Cuttack rupees by writing an article in the *Numismatic Supplement.* Prof Sinha on the other hand reproduced a few mint records from the Nagpur Residency Records and added his commentary to it in Vol 28 of the *Journal of the Numismatic Society of India.* The two works,however, were never studied together until now when we find that what has been written in the records perfectly applies to the coins discussed here.

In 1984 an attempt was made by the author to attribute the Bhonsla coins to different rulers according to the details given by Prof Sinha and a paper was read at the Inaugural Seminar of the Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies at Nasik. Since then, a number of records have been discovered and when these were studied in detail it was found that whatever had been said earlier was mostly wrong. For instance, coin Type 44 of Raghuji III published here was initially attributed to Raghuji II or Raghuji I. In this book we have deliberately refrained from discussing these earlier, erroneous attributions, considering it better to publish only the correct attributions based on reliable and dated records. Despite this, there remain many problems in attributing certain coins to any mint or ruler. Tentative notes are given below the illustrations of such coins.

The mint records given by Dr Gordon, the then mint-master of the Nagpur mint, and other British officers regarding the Bhonsla mint are of great importance in the study of Bhonsla coins. These records are kept at the Central Provinces Civil Secretariat, Old Records Office, Nagpur. They are scattered in various files mainly those in the C. P. Civil Secretariat, Bundle Correspondence of Finance Department, 1823-63; Nagpur Residency Records, Vols 42-43; Jubbelpore Divisional Records, 1823-44 and Berar Records, 1870-92. These records are so voluminous that it is not possible to reproduce all of them in this book. A selection,however, has been reproduced in the Appendices, arranged chronologically to give it a historical continuity. Whenever reference is made to Dr Gordon's report in the text of this book, its details would be found in the above mentioned appendices. Other unpublished letters are generally reproduced in the text if they are important.

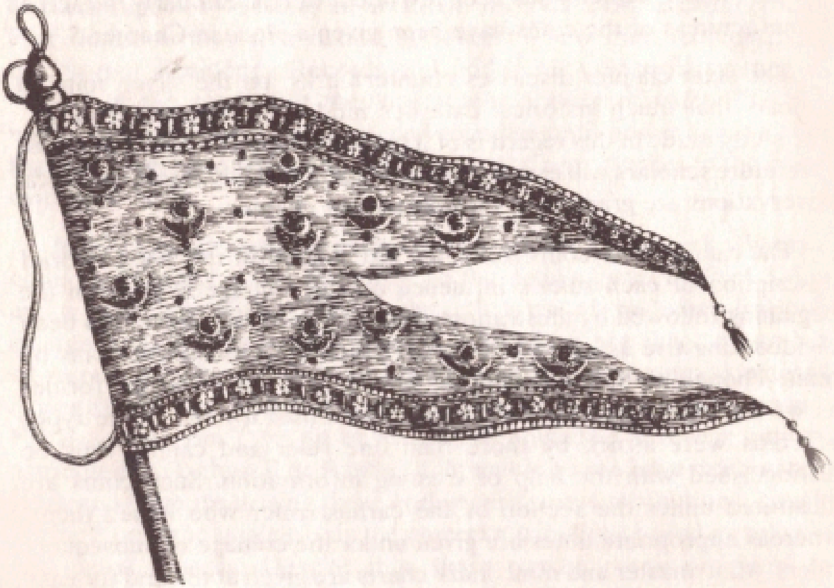
A short history of the Bhonsla kingdom is given in the second chapter, whereas historical and numismatic details of each mint are described in Chapter 3.

The counterfeits of Bhonsla coins have provided interesting material for this book. Chapter 4 has been provided for this. Similarly the actual manufacturers of the coins have been given a place in Chapter 5.

The sixth chapter discusses countermarks on the silver coins. It appears that much historical data lies hidden in the countermarks. The study made in this regard is of a preliminary nature and it is hoped that future scholars will examine the subject more fully. Some statistical observations are graphed in the subsequent chapter.

The catalogue of coins forms the last chapter of this book. A brief description of each ruler's influence on the coinage is given in the beginning followed by illustrations of the coins. This chapter has been divided kingwise as against the usual practice of listing the coins by mint. Though both ways are possible, we have preferred the former as we feel that a ruler was more important than a mint. Some types of coins were struck by more than one ruler and cannot thus be distinguished with the help of existing information. Such coins are illustrated under the section of the earliest ruler who issued them, whereas appropriate notes are given under the coinage of subsequent rulers. Mint-master and mint mark charts are given at the end for easy identification.

Prashant P. Kulkarni



Zariputka

1. Introduction

The Bhonsla rulers of Nagpur and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja descended from the same ancestral stock : the former belonged to the Hingni branch and the latter to the Verul branch. The Nagpur rulers built up their own principality in Central India and extended it to Orissa. Their rule lasted over a century and a half.

As one of the largest kingdoms in 18th century India, it introduced its own silver rupee currency. Though not very artistic, this rupee became popular and acceptable throughout India. The reasons for this could be as follows :

1. The Nagpur rupee was similar to that of Ahmad Shah, the Mughal emperor,

2. These rupee coins were of inferior silver, thus providing a larger discount to the money-changers. This meant that the money-changers could buy them cheap, mix them in bags with better quality (i.e.,Mughal) coins and then put them back into circulation at a profit, and

3. There was no other currency to compete with the Nagpur rupee in the Berar and Chhattisgarh regions.

In the 19th century, the copper coins of Nagpur also gained great popularity. The *Trishooli* pice and the *Zariputka* rupee struck under the supervision of Dr Gordon circulated up to the end of the 19th century. The British officers always complained about these coins;

they made every effort to put a stop to such circulation. Yet it took more than fifty years for the people of India to give up these old coins and accept the British currency.[1]

There was a very active mint amidst the Bhonsla territory at Ellichpur. But it was never under the Bhonslas. The Nawabs of Ellichpur under Hyderabad State, struck a variety of copper coins from this mint. Most of them circulated in the Bhonsla territory as well.

For small transactions, cowries were used in Orissa. In Berar, the cowries had a limited use, instead a tiny coin called *Khadku*, like Type 103, was very popular. It appears that, to overcome the shortage of smaller coins, larger ones were cut into pieces and used as change. A few hoards have shown a large number of such cut pieces of coins comprising mostly Bhonsla coinage but also those of distant areas and various period, for example those of the Peshwas, Holkars and even Kushans. In the Bhonsla territories of Orissa, however, cowries were extensively used. Shivabhat Sathe, the *subedar* of Janoji, collected 27,82,446 cowri *Kahāns* towards the revenue of Orissa during one year.[2] The *Kahān* was a measure, approximately half a *seer*. When filled with cowries,one *Kahān* made a fourth of a rupee. Copper paisas had a different ratio to the rupee. The heaviest of 20 *mashas* went 32 to a rupee, whereas the one current from 1825 onwards, being of 9 *mashas*, went 64 to a rupee. It may be mentioned here that the *tola* during the Bhonsla rule was much heavier than the Mughal *tola* of 12 g. A *ruttee* was equal to 0.13 g; a *masha*,0.13 x 8 = 1.04 g; and a *tola*,1.04 x 12 = 12.48 g. It is probable that *Khadkus* were never exchanged in the markets for rupees. Money-changers occasionally exchanged them at whatever rates they desired. Gold mohurs were rarely struck. In the markets, 15 to 17 rupees could normally purchase a mohur.

The Bhonsla coinage had a certain similarity with early British India coins. The Nagpur and Chanda rupees depict fictitious mint names – Surat and Cuttack – and fictitious years. This is also true of the coins of East India Company. These rupees bearing the mint name

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[1] Official Memorandum of the Secretary to the Government of India dated 4th November 1863, Finance Department, File of 1863; Correspondence cited in *Berar Records*, Case File of 1864, Foreign Department, Judicial.

[2] Y. M. Kale, *Nagpurkar Bhonslyancha Itihas*, 2nd edition, Nagpur, 1979, p. 239.

Farrukhabad were struck at several other places like Sagar, Calcutta and Banaras. Some Nagpur rupees exhibit tiny dot marks to distinguish the mint-masters. The coins of Raghuji II and of later rulers, especially those struck by the mint-masters Shivaram, Ramjee Tanteea and Nursinghrao, depict these tiny dot marks for the first time. Exactly similar marks were put on the British rupees after more than forty years – on the 1862 rupees of Queen Victoria. It is very interesting to note this similarity. Prinsep has given the identification of the dots and marks.[3]

Bhonsla coins suffer from the disadvantage of being inartistic by comparison with other contemporary coins. But they surpass most of the coinages of those days in the systematic employment of marks, the intentional reduction of or increase in the weight and purity, and the maintenance of meticulous mint records. That is why we can attribute most of these coins to particular rulers and mints which we cannot do in the case of many of the Princely State coins.

An attempt has been made in this book to estimate the rarity of each sub-variety of a coin type. This is based on an overall study of thousands of coins examined by the author. A coin that is mentioned as being unique is of course only known from one specimen. But other specimens may well turn up after the publication of this book. The rarity is determined as follows :

Rarity	*Number of Pieces known*
Unique	1
Extremely Rare	2 - 3
Very Rare	4-10
Rare	11-25
Scarce	26-50
Common	51 or more

No distinction has been made between common, very common and extremely common types as these are subjective judgements and might vary with the discovery of new hoards.

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[3] James Prinsep, *Essays on Indian Antiquities, Historic, Numismatic and Palaeographic*, Useful Tables, p. 68. Prinsep has mixed up some of the attributions, the same have to be considered with a grain of salt.

The period of an individual ruler, mint-master or mint-contractor certainly has a bearing upon the rarity of coins struck during that particular period. This has been considered while estimating the rarity of scarce and common types. Dr Gordon's assay reports also help to determine the comparitive rarity of various specimens during that period. It has been observed that the ratio of various types of Nagpur rupees found in a bag during Dr Gordon's period shows little variation as compared with that of coins handled by us. The exception to this are *Naldar* rupees, most of which were melted off by the British officers.

The minting of Bhonsla coins ended with the closure of the Nagpur mint in 1854,but the story of coinage of the Nagpur rulers does not end with this book. New discoveries will continue to be made, necessitating further study.

2. History of the Bhonsla Kingdom

CHRONOLOGY OF THE BHONSLA RULERS :

	AD	AH
1. Parsoji I	1699-1709	1111-1121
2. Kanhoji	1709-1730	1121-1143
3. Raghuji I	1730-1755	1143-1168
4. Janoji	1755-1772	1168-1186
5. Raghuji II	1772-1816	1186-1231
6. Parsoji II	1816-1817	1231-1232
7. Appa Saheb	1817-1818	1232-1233
8. Raghuji III	1818-1853	1233-1270

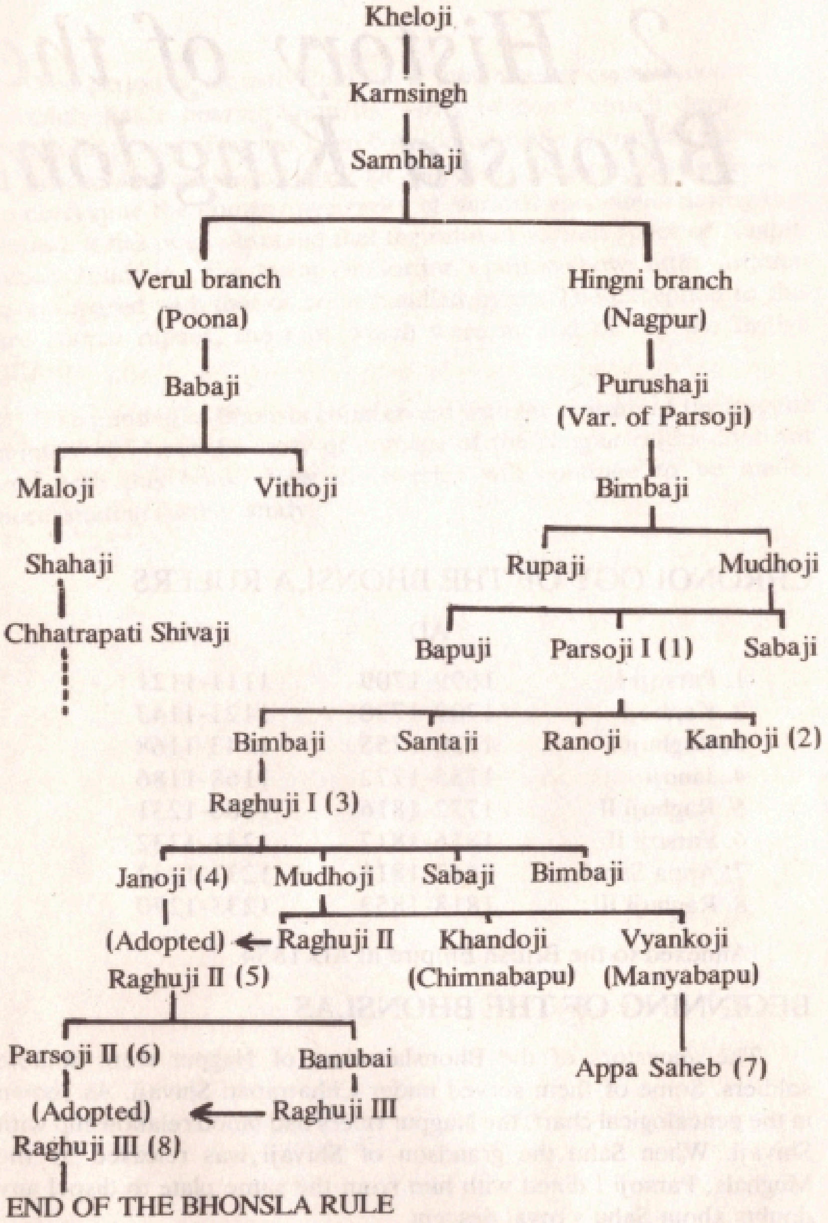
Annexed to the British Empire in AD 1854.

BEGINNING OF THE BHONSLAS

The ancestors of the Bhonsla rulers of Nagpur were notable soldiers. Some of them served under Chhatrapati Shivaji. As shown in the genealogical chart, the Nagpur rulers had blood relationship with Shivaji. When Sahu, the grandson of Shivaji, was released by the Mughals, Parsoji I dined with him from the same plate to dispel any doubts about Sahu's royal descent.

Parsoji was granted the title, *Sena Saheb Subha* (The army chief of a territory) in 1707. He made Bham in Berar his headquarter and

GENEALOGY OF THE BHONSLA RULERS


Kheloji
Karnsingh
Sambhaji
Verul branch
(Poona)
Hingni branch
(Nagpur)
Babaji
Purushaji
(Var. of Parsoji)
Maloji
Vithoji
Bimbaji
Shahaji
Rupaji
Mudhoji
Chhatrapati Shivaji
Bapuji
Parsoji I (1)
Sabaji
Bimbaji
Santaji
Ranoji
Kanhoji (2)
Raghuji I (3)
Janoji (4)
Mudhoji
Sabaji
Bimbaji
(Adopted)
Raghuji II
Khandoji
Vyankoji
Raghuji II (5)
(Chimnabapu)
(Manyabapu)
Parsoji II (6)
Banubai
Appa Saheb (7)
(Adopted)
Raghuji III
Raghuji III (8)
END OF THE BHONSLA RULE

administered the adjoining territories until 1709 when he died on his way back from Satara to Bham.[1]

The Second Sena Saheb Subha

Kanhoji ,the fourth son of Parsoji I,received the robes of *Sena Saheb Subha* from Sahu in AD 1710. Kanhoji ruled for twenty years and laid the foundation of a strict rule in Berar. He was very hot-tempered and could not get on with his subordinates or with Sahu. As Raghuji I, the nephew of Kanhoji, was not on cordial terms with the latter, Sahu took advantage of the situation by summoning Raghuji and entrusting him with the mission of arresting Kanhoji. Raghuji took a long time to get reinforcements. It was almost two years, before Raghuji reached Berar in 1730, fully prepared to crush Kanhoji. He occupied Bham, chased Kanhoji and defeated him near Mahur. Kanhoji was sent to Satara as prisoner.

RAGHUJI I

Raghuji was the son of Bimbaji and Kashibai Bhonsle. He spent his childhood at Pandavawadi near Poona. Since he was born after a prayer to God Rama he was named Raghu, the forebear of Shri Rama.

In his early days he served under his uncle Kanhoji, Chand Sultan of Devagadh, Ismail Khan-the Nawab of Ellichpur and finally under Sahu Maharaja of Satara.

Raghuji was a very generous man. He is said to have paid sumptuous amounts to his soldiers thus emptying all his coffers. He was also very religious. He installed the famous Rama idol at Ramtek and adopted the *Bhagwa Zenda* (saffron-colour ensign with two flanges) alongwith the *Zariputka* (a flag with gold and silver embroidered borders). He revered both Hindu and Muslim saints. His seals depict the name of God Shiva - *Pārvatīkanta Vishrānta Manasoti Yashaswinah - Bimbātmaja Mudraishā Rāghavasya Virajīte,* whereas his letterhead bore the name, *Sītākānta* (the husband of Sita), i.e., Shri Rama.

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[1] Historical references in this chapter have been mostly taken from Y. M Kale's *Nagpurkar Bhonslancha Itihas*, 2nd edition, Nagpur, 1979 (Marathi); B. D. Karanjakar's *Amravati Shaharacha Itihas*, Amravati, 1978 (Marathi) and from *Maharashtra State Gazetteers*, History , Part III, Bombay, 1967.

Raghuji was a brave general. A self-made man, he did not like anybody interfering in his affairs. Although he never paid any money to Sahu as his share of the revenue, Sahu liked him very much and placed him on a par with the Peshwas.

He had a number of able *sardars*,the most renowned of whom were Tulojipant, Shivaji Keshav, Vithal Balal, Rakhamaji Prabhu, Raghuji Karande, Bhaskarram, Krishnaji Atole, Anandrao Wagh and Shivabhat.

Expansion of the Bhonsla Kingdom

Raghuji I was a man of great ability. Soon after laying the foundation of a strong kingdom he took his first opportunity to dislodge the Gond ruler of Devagadh. On the death of Chand Sultan, the ruler of Devagadh, in 1738, his illegitimate son Wali Shah usurped the throne. Rani Ratan Kunwar, the widow of Chand Sultan, invoked the help of Raghuji. Raghuji marched alongwith his able *sardars* and captured Patansavangi, Pawani and Bhandara one after the other. At Devagadh, Wali shah was killed in a skirmish outside the fort. Raghuji thereafter placed Burhan Shah and Akbar Shah on the throne. Soon after, they quarrelled giving Raghuji the chance to finally annexe the Gond territory to the Bhonsla kingdom. Nagpur was thereafter made the Captial. Raghuji, however, kept the Gond rulers at Nagpur giving them an annual pension of 1.25 lakhs of rupees.

Raghuji thereafter raided Gadha-Mandla. This created rivalry with Peshwa Bajirao I. Raghuji never helped the Peshwa. When Bajirao was busy fighting with the Nizam at Bhopal, he needed help from Raghuji. Raghuji, however, refused to give it; on the contrary, he marched towards Allahabad and looted that territory. Bajirao, much displeased, sent his *sardars* against Raghuji. The result was disastrous. Raghuji crushed the Peshwa generals and drove them into headlong flight. Ultimately, Sahu called Balaji Peshwa and Raghuji to Satara in 1743, and brought about a reconciliation. By an agreement, Berar and all the eastern territory as far as Cuttack, Bengal and Lucknow was assigned to Raghuji and the remaining areas of Ajmer, Agra, Prayag and Malwa were granted to the Peshwa.

By this time Raghuji had already conquered the adjoining Gond principality of Chanda and some areas of Gadha-Mandla. So he turned his eyes thereafter towards Bengal.

Bhonsla Expeditions to Bengal

Jafar Khan, the Nawab of Bengal, administered Orissa and Bengal provinces on behalf of the Mughals during the early 18th century. Bengal prospered to a great extent during his rule. He was followed by his son Shujauddin, who died in 1739. Shujauddin's son, Sarfaraj, was supposed to have succeeded him. However, Alivardi Khan, a *sardar* of Shujauddin, killed Sarfaraj and took over the reins of government.

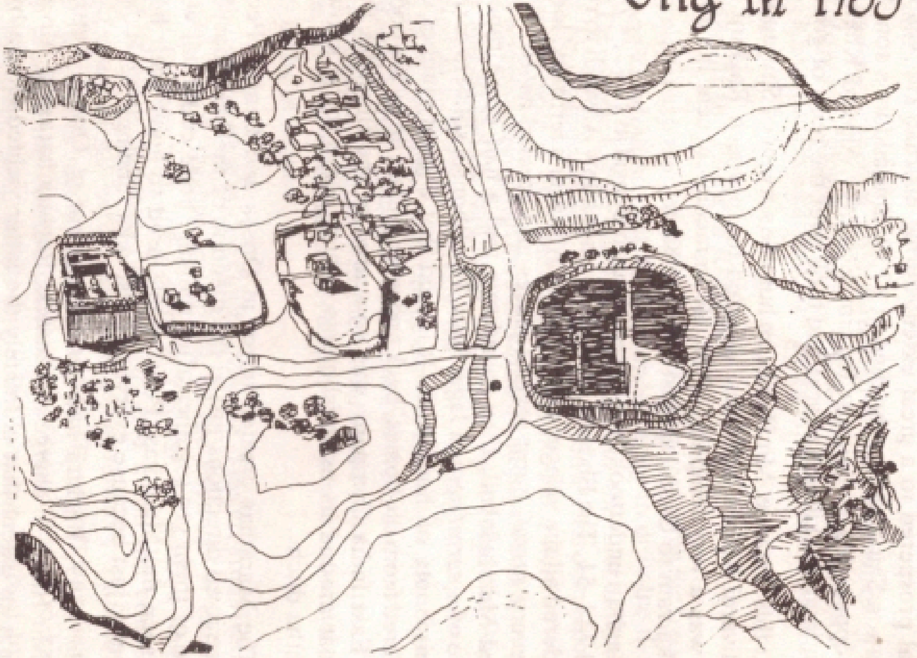
At this instance, Mir Habib, an humble servant of Shujauddin, tired of Alivardi Khan's activities, decided to approach Raghuji for help. This was a very tempting offer. He immediately sent his able *sardar* Bhaskarram to Orissa against Alivardi Khan.

Raghuji undertook four expeditions to Bengal in 1742, 1743, 1744 and 1748-51. The Bhonsla soldiers did not allow Alivardi to rest. They plundered all the villages and towns in Ali vardi's territory, looted each and every *sarraf*, burnt several places and created havoc. When they looted Murshidabad, they found two and a half crore rupees in the house of a *sarraf* named Jagat Seth. The Bhonsla soldiers carried away all this booty on horseback. It is said that a great number of rupees scattered from the horses' back and were picked up by the poor people. The East India Company was so scared of the Bhonslas that it dug a moat around its establishments, which came to be known as the Maratha ditch.

The Marathas created terror in Orissa and Bengal. People used to flee in all directions just at the mention of the Marathas. Yet when some of them got together after running, none could tell where they had seen the Marathas. Poor people used to leave their houses and property just because everybody else was running.

By 1747, Raghuji had got full control of Orissa. Putting Janoji and Mir Habib in charge at Cuttack, Raghuji harassed Alivardi Khan to such an extent that ultimately the latter yielded Orissa by a treaty to the Bhonslas in 1751. The Bhonsla kingdom thus extended over a vast territory from Berar to Orissa, and from Gadha-Mandla to Chandrapur. Berar was under the joint rule of the Nizam and the Bhonslas. The Nizam received 40% of the revenue whereas the Bhonslas got 60%. Ellichpur in Berar was one of the major towns under the Nizam, leaving almost all the remaining territory to the Bhonslas.

Raghuji died at the height of power and glory on the 14th February 1755; *Fālguna Shuddha 3.Śaka 1676,* from an abdominal disease.



City In 1765

Balaji Bajirao Peshwa sent condolences saying, "Raghuji was a respectable man. It is very sorrowful to learn about his death but we have to accept God's will. In these days he was much help to us".

JANOJI

Janoji was the eldest son of Raghuji. Before his death, Raghuji desired that Janoji should succeed him. Mudhoji, who was younger than Janoji, however, contested the succession on the grounds that he was the son of the eldest wife of Raghuji. This conflict continued for years until it was settled by the Peshwa, who resolved that Janoji should rule Nagpur and Mudhoji should administer Chandrapur and adjoining areas. This family conflict wasted a lot of the energy of the Nagpur kingdom and weakened Janoji.

As a result of this, Janoji was regarded as less powerful than his father. He was a man of confused mind and could not adhere to a stable policy.

Janoji, however, did a great service to the Maratha kingdom after the debacle at Panipat. He had accompanied Nanasahib Peshwa on his trip to Panipat to strengthen Sadashivaraobhau. But the news of the final disaster reached them at Bhilsa. Due to this defeat, at the hands of Ahmad Śhah Abdali, all the Maratha feudatory chiefs went against the Peshwa. At this juncture, Janoji stayed in Central India and kept in check the Bundela and other Hindu chiefs. He captured Sagar, Hatta, Rewamukund, Jhansie, Garhakota and other petty places. This act of Janoji strengthened Maratha control in Central India.

Bhonsla-Peshwa-Nizam Conflicts

In 1757-58 Janoji waged his first war with the Nizam. Both concluded a treaty on the bank of the river Wardha. Soon after, Janoji again joined Sadashivaraobhau in the Peshwa-Nizam war at Udgir. The Nizam lost heavily. After 1761, the Nizam again grew strong enough to disturb the Maratha territories. He went to Burhanpur, strengthened his army, came back to Aurangabad and marched on to Poona. A battle was fought at Urali wherein Janoji joined Raghobadada. All the Maratha *sardars* besieged the Nizam leaving him too weak to fight. Raghobadada, however, indiscreetly concluded a treaty with the Nizam seceding all the territories that had been conquered in the battle of Udgir.

Soon after, the family feud between Raghobadada and Peshwa Madhavarao reached new heights. They fought amongst themselves and Raghobadada invited the Nizam as well as Janoji to help him. Madhavarao, however, was arrested and Raghobadada took total control of affairs.

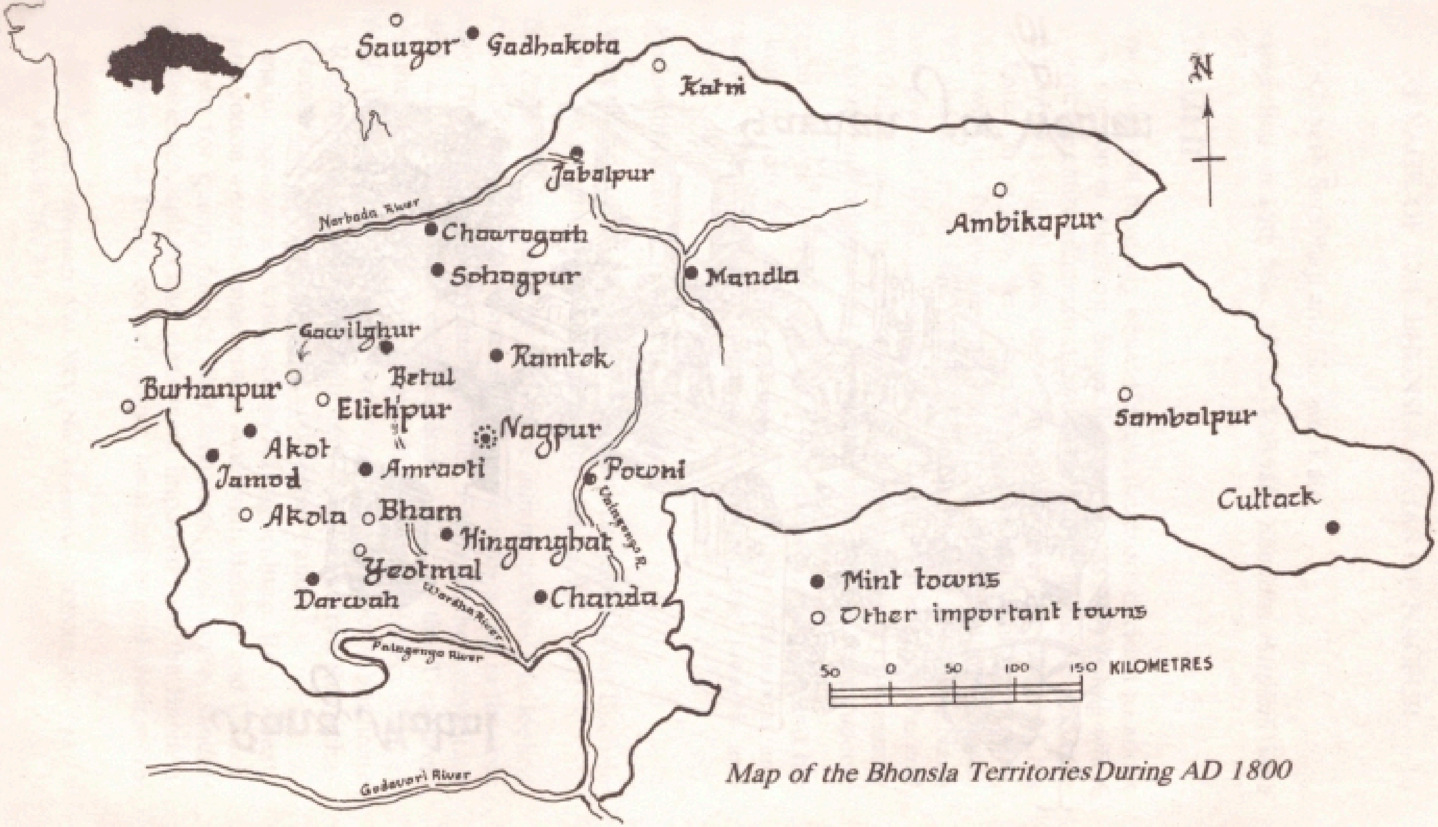
The Nizam took full advantage of the situation by inviting all the disgruntled Maratha *sardars* to join him. His plan succeeded to a great extent and he was able to amass an army of more than one lakh soldiers including several Maratha *sardars* and even Janoji Bhonsla. Janoji was offered 40 per cent share of the booty. Janoji was lured by this generous offer from the Nizam. Without considering the unity of the Maratha confederacy, but purely for his personal interest, he joined the Nizam. Both of them marched to Poona, burnt the city and took away a large booty. This was in 1763. At the same time Raghobadada and his *sardars* reached Hyderabad and plundered the capital of the Nizam.

To take his revenge on the Nizam, the Peshwa planned the same trick as theformer.He exerted pressure on Janoji to leave the Nizam at the moment when the Marathas would attack. A sum of about 32 lakh rupees was offered to Janoji for his gesture. This, coupled with persuasion by Malharrao Holkar and threats from Mahadaji Sindhia finally induced Janoji to agree to join the Maratha confederacy. Janoji kept his promise and deserted the Nizam at Rakshasatagadi. A decisive battle was fought and the Nizam was finally humbled.

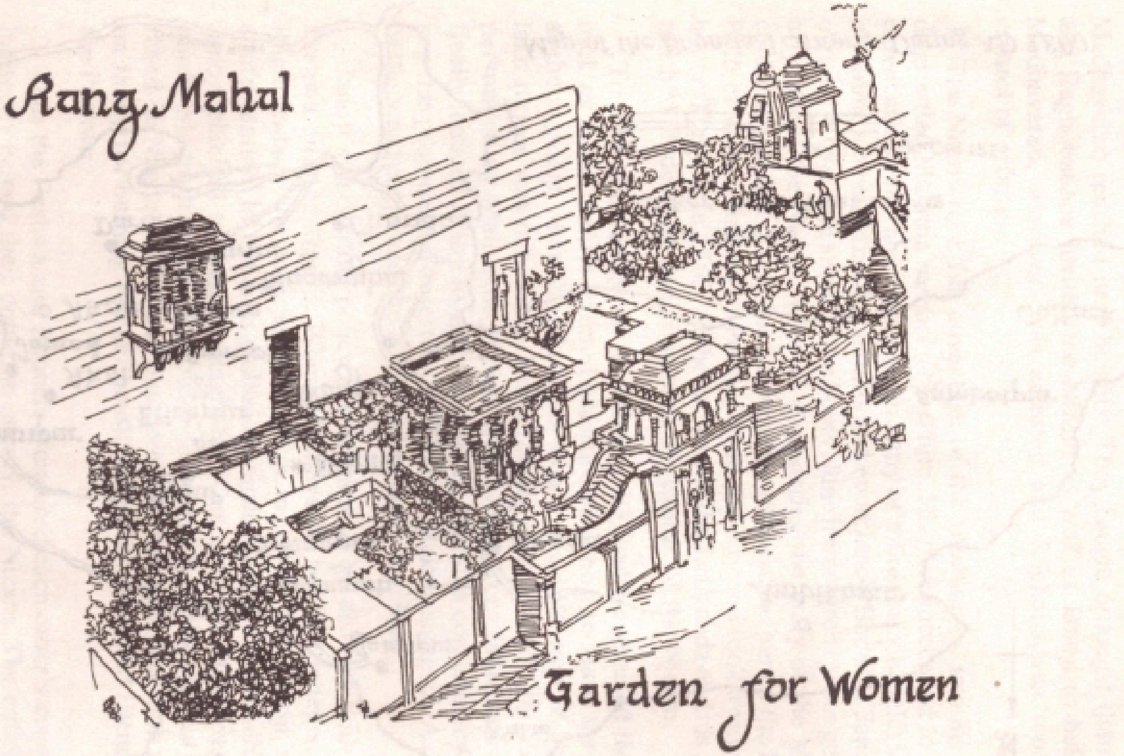
Janoji's vacillating policy caused him to be disliked both by the Peshwa and the Nizam. When Madhavarao became independent of Raghobadada, he marched on Janoji in 1766. But Janoji avoided confrontation. In 1768 Raghobadada again went against Madhavarao. Janoji planned to support Raghoba. This irritated Madhavarao too much. Madhvarao put Raghobadada behind bars. He thereafter marched on Nagpur, burnt and plundered the city and,thus took revenge on Janoji for burning Poona. Janoji thereafter remained friendly with the Peshwa.

Thus the Peshwa and Bhonsla plundered each other's country and indirectly helped their common enemy, the Nizam. The entire blame for this should not be put on Janoji as Raghobadada was equally responsible for inducing the former to do so.

Janoji administered the Nagpur kingdom efficiently with the help of his notable ministers namely, Divakarpant Chorghade, Bhawani


Saugor
Gadhakota
Katni
N
Jabalpur
Narbada River
Chowragarh
Sohagpur
Mandla
Ambikapur
Gawilghur
Ramtek
Betul
Burhanpur
Elichpur
Nagpur
Sambalpur
Akot
Jamod
Amraoti
Powni
Wainganga R.
Akola
Bham
Hinganghat
Cuttack
Yeotmal
Darwah
Wardha River
Chanda
Painganga River
Godavari River
● Mint towns
○ Other important towns
50 0 50 100 150 KILOMETRES

Map of the Bhonsla Territories During AD 1800


Rang Mahal
Garden for Women

Munshi, Ganesh Sambhaji and Bhavani Kalo.

Janoji died on 16th May 1772; *Vaīshāka Shuddha Purṇīmā Śaka 1694.*

RAGHUJI II

Janoji did not have any issue. He had therefore decided to adopt Raghuji, the son of Mudhoji. Since Raghuji II was very young when Janoji died, the entire administration was carried on under the guidance of Mudhoji. Raghuji II took the charge only after the death of his father. Later on he grew very powerful and extended his territories. He sided with the Peshwa against the Nizam in the battle at Kharda in 1795 and had a decisive victory. For this bravery and help, Nana Fadnavis granted Raghuji possession of Gadha-Mandla. By the end of 1800 the Bhonsla kingdom was at the height of its glory. Its annual income from land revenue had crossed the mark of one crore rupees.

Raghuji II was a very simple man. His dress was simple and his behaviour towards his *sardars* cordial. Though he cannot bear any comparison with Raghuji I, his very long reign was smooth and uneventful.

The Period of Stability

During the rule of Raghuji II, much stability prevailed in the Bhonsla kingdom. The pattern of the administration was as follows :

The *Raja* was the head of the entire administration. He looked after most of the important matters and sometimes acted in the role of judge. The *Dīwān* was the Chief Minister, *Fadṇavīs*, the Accountant General, *Chiṭṇavīs*, the General Secretary, *Jāmdār*, the Treasurer, *Bakshi*, the Defence Chief, *Varhādpānde*, the Tax Recovery Officer and *Naīk*, the Foreign Minister. There were several other subordinate posts. Raghuji II had important ministers like Jaswantrao Ramachandra,[2] Narain Pandit, Beniramapant and Nagoo Pandit.[3]

The major occupation of the people was agriculture. Rice, wheat, jawar and cotton were the main crops. Amravati, Balapur and Umred were known for quality fabrics. Salt, coconuts, metalware, sandal-wood, medicines, spices and glass were imported into the Bhonsla territory, where as fruits, cotton, sugar, betal leaves and cloth were exported.

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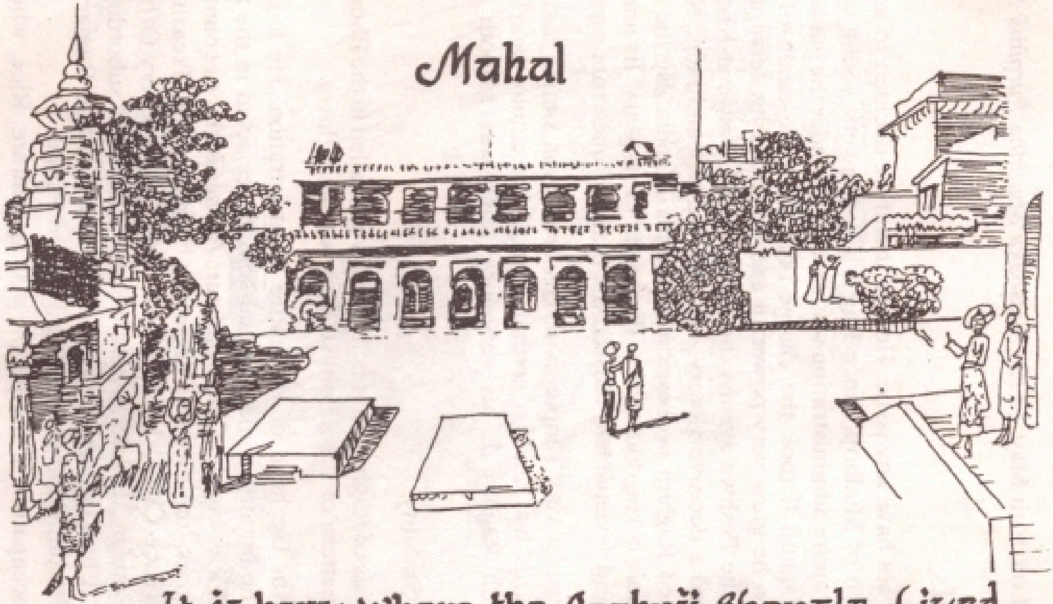
[2] *Nagpur Residency Records*, Vol. XXV, No. 74 and Vol. XXVIII, No. 234.

[3] *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXVII, No. 89.



It is here; Where the Raghuji Bhonsla Lived

Gymnastics, wrestling and animal fights were some of the games played. Kite flying was also very popular. The public enjoyed bull-fights, and animal circuses. Hunting was much liked by the royal personages whereas the general public enjoyed viewing the hunt.

Music, sculpture and painting also had some place under Bhonsla rule. Whenever Raghuji II used to go for boating in the lake, a fleet of musicians and dancers would accompany him in separate boats.

Thus all was well in the Bhonsla kingdom until the end of the 18th century.

Bhonsla - British Relations

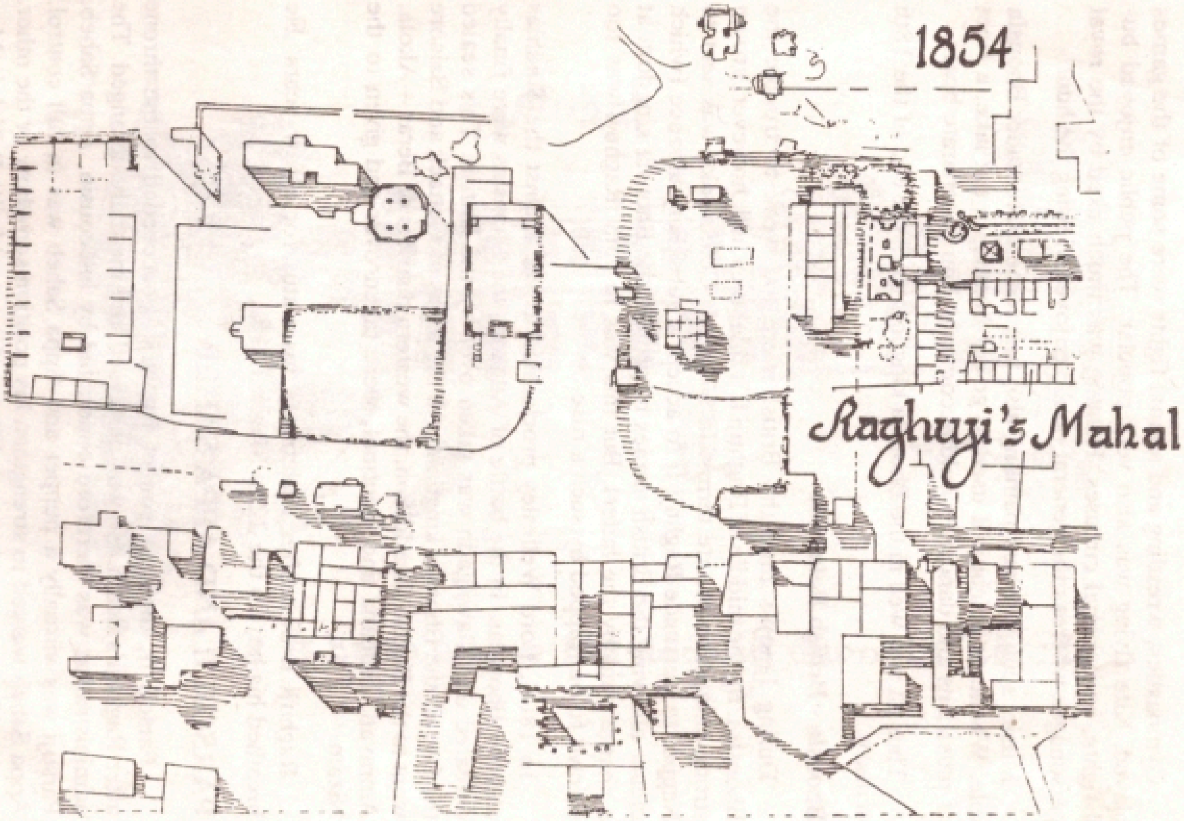
During Janoji's time the British were too weak to trouble the Bhonslas. By the middle of Raghuji II's rule, they had, however, grown strong enough to dictate terms. In 1799 Mr Colebrooke was sent to Nagpur to persuade Raghuji II to accept a subsidiary alliance (which meant allowing the British armies to protect the Bhonsla kingdom at a charge paid by the latter). But this was in vain. Raghuji was too shrewd to be trapped by such a ruse.

In 1803, Lord Wellesley proclaimed a war against the Sindhias and the Bhonslas. In the battle of Adgaon, the Bhonslas were finally defeated and Gawilgadh was taken over by the British. This sealed the fate of the Bhonsla kingdom. All the areas of Cuttack and Balsore went to the British. In addition, the western districts of Berar – Akola, Amravati, Buldana and Yeotmal, were taken over and given to the Nizam.

Raghuji II thereafter maintained his status for a few years. He breathed his last on the 22nd March 1816.

PARSOJI II AND APPA SAHEB

Parsoji II, the only son of Raghuji II succeeded to the throne after Raghuji's death. He was paralysed and mentally deranged. The administration was therefore conducted by his cousin, Appa Saheb. Parsoji was virtually a puppet and Appa Saheb was in full control. Appa Saheb wanted to strengthen his position somehow or the other. He therefore entered into subsidiary alliance with the British in May 1816. This alliance gave the British a permanent hold on the Nagpur kingdom.


1854
Raghuji's Mahal

On February 1, 1817, Parsoji was found dead in his bed. Appa Saheb was the son of Raghuji II's brother,Manyabapu alias Vyankoji. When Parsoji died, he was at Chandrapur. On coming back, he quietly took the reins of government into his hands as there was no heir to the throne.

The British did not want Appa Saheb to maintain relations with the Peshwa. But, as the robes of *Sena Saheb Subha* had come from the Peshwa, Appa Saheb decided to receive them ceremonially on the 24th November 1817. This soured his relationship with the British. Appa Saheb collected an army of 10,000 men and a battle was fought with the British in the month of December 1817. The Bhonslas lost heavily. Resident Jenkins thereafter took full control in his hands. In 1818 Appa Saheb was sent to Prayag as a prisoner. He escaped and spent his last days peacefully at Jodhpur.

RAGHUJI III

Raghuji III was elevated to the throne after the seizure of Appa Saheb. He was the son of Banubai, the daughter of Raghuji II. Raghuji was only 10 years old when he succeeded. He worked under the guidance of his grandmother Bakabai and the Resident Mr Jenkins.It is said that he was very intelligent but he spent most of his life in luxury. The administration was thus fully under the British control.

Bhonsla rule thereafter continued smoothly until 1853 when Raghuji III died. Lord Dalhousie annexed the kingdom to the British empire as there was no heir. Bhonsla rule thus came to an end after a period of more than a century and a half.

The glory of the Bhonsla kingdom was at its height during the reigns of Raghuji I and Raghuji II. An extract from an Auction Notification published at Calcutta in 1855 gives an idea of the extent of affluence of the times :

"Diamonds of Immense size and weight and of Pure Water, Set as Armlets, Bracelets, Rings and Large Diamond Drops of various weights. One of these Diamonds is considerably larger than the Darya-i-Noor... LARGE EMERALD NECKLACES ... DIAMONDS ... VARIOUS ... Emerald JEEGHS ... Diamond TORRAH ...

GOLD and Enamelled UTTAR and PAUN DAUNTS ... SURROY, WATER JUGS, KULLUM DAUNTS...

A VERY Elegant Gold and Enamelled HOOKAH, ... A LARGE number of Gold, Diamond and Ruby Mounted swords, RHINOCEROS HIDE SHIELDS, DAGGERS, KNIVES, BOWS,ARROWS, QUIVERS, etc. etc.

PLATE CHESTS, containing English made Silver, Electroplated Ware and Porcelain Dinner and Dessert serves to dine 100 persons."[4]

GAWILGHUR
VICTORIA REGINA

The Army of India Medal Awarded for the battles of Gawilghur, Seetabuldee and Nagpore

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[4] *Calcutta Morning Chronicle* dated 12th October 1855.

3. Mint Towns of the Bhonslas

Bhonsla rule extended over a considerable territory in Central India. Most of the area however, was tribal or undeveloped and did not have official mints. In the beginning, the existing mints at Nagpur and Cuttack were continued. At a later period several others were established but subsequently closed down. In all, there were more than seventeen mints. This exceeds the number of Holkar's and Gaikwad's and even Sindhias if we take into account several unknown places where copper coins were minted.

Dr Gordon mentions that there were a large number of mints at various places in Berar which minted copper coins of different weights.[1] From the Chhattisgadh region no mint town is known to us, though a number of them might have struck coins to meet the local demand of the market. The extraordinary number of crude coins that are found in the Bhonsla territory give us an indication of the existence of such mints. These coins are illustrated in the section–Unattributed Coins. They require further study but attribution is unlikely to be possible without a detailed knowledge of their find-spots. The mints are discussed below.

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[1] Appendix 2, C.P. Civil Secretariat, Bundle Correspondence, Finance Department, Case File No. 1 of 1823 (hereinafter referred to as *Bundle Correspondence Records)*; Answer to Question No. 16.

List of Mint Towns

The following are the mint towns. Those for which coins have not yet been attributed are in italics.

1. *Akot*
2. Amravati
3. *Betul*
4. *Boree Pownee*
5. Chanda
6. *Chowragadh*
7. Cuttack
8. *Darwha*
9. Gadhakota
10. *Hinganghat*
11. Jabalpur
12. *Jamod*
13. *Mandla*
14. Nagpur
15. *Ramtek*
16. *Sagar*
17. Sohagpur

AKOT

21° 6' N; 77° 6' E

Situated in the Akola district of Berar, Akot was an important cotton centre during the Bhonsla period. When Janoji died, his wife Daryabai was staying at Akot. Alongwith Sabaji, the uncle of Raghuji II, she tried unsuccessfully to usurp the throne. The *killedar* of Narnala fort, Divakarpant, also had his house at Akot. The people of Akot, mostly peasants, cultivated coarse grain such as jawar, bajra and cotton. Akot remained with the Bhonslas upto 1803, when it was given to the Nizam by the British.

COINAGE

The only reference about copper coins of Akot is found in Dr Gordon's report. He mentions a paisa of Akot weighing 14 *mashas*, (14.56 g)[2]. It is not possible to identify the coin from this scanty information. There is, however, an area called *Ṭākpurā* in Akot where the mint might have been situated. *Ṭākpurā* means an area where the activity of minting was conducted, including the residence of the mint employees.

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2. *Ibid.*

AMRAVATI

20° 56' N; 77° 48' E

Amravati, an ancient place in Vidarbha,had a forest of *Audumbara (Ficus glomerulata)* trees. The earliest name, Audumbaravati was derived from these trees. Later on it was changed to Umbaravati, Umravati and now to Amravati.

Ranoji Bhonsla, uncle of Raghuji I, was ruling the town at the beginning of the Bhonsla period. Later on he joined Raghuji I,and worked with him upto 1760. The Bhonsla rulers of Nagpur granted the *subedari* of Amravati to their cousins and kept control on their affairs.

In 1745,the *taluqdar* of Akola drove away thousands of Hindus from the city. They took refuge at Amravati,and this led Raghuji I to fortify the town at a cost of 1.5 lakhs of rupees. Amravati grew soon after and became one of the leading trade centres for cotton and vegetable oil.

It remained with the Bhonslas until 1803 when it was surrendered to the British by the treaty of Devagaon. The British, in turn, transferred it to the Nizam of Hyderabad.

The famous Theosophical Society was established in Amravati in 1900. Under British rule it was a prosperous place. It is now the headquarter of the district with a population of 3,00,000.

According to the *Hyderabad Residency Records*.[3] a copper mint at Amravati started in 1725. It worked intermittently in the beginning, and was closed in 1772. It was, however, reopened by the Nizam around 1810, for striking copper and silver coins. Permission was given by the Nizam in 1821 to strike gold coins also. The mint was finally closed in 1847.

The mint was located in the eastern part of Amravati which is even now known as *Juni Ţaksāl* (old mint). A *jahagirdar* family now lives on the mint premises (see the illustration). Many years ago, when the area was dug up for construction work, a large number of metal ingots were unearthed. This confirmed the local information about the existence of the mint.

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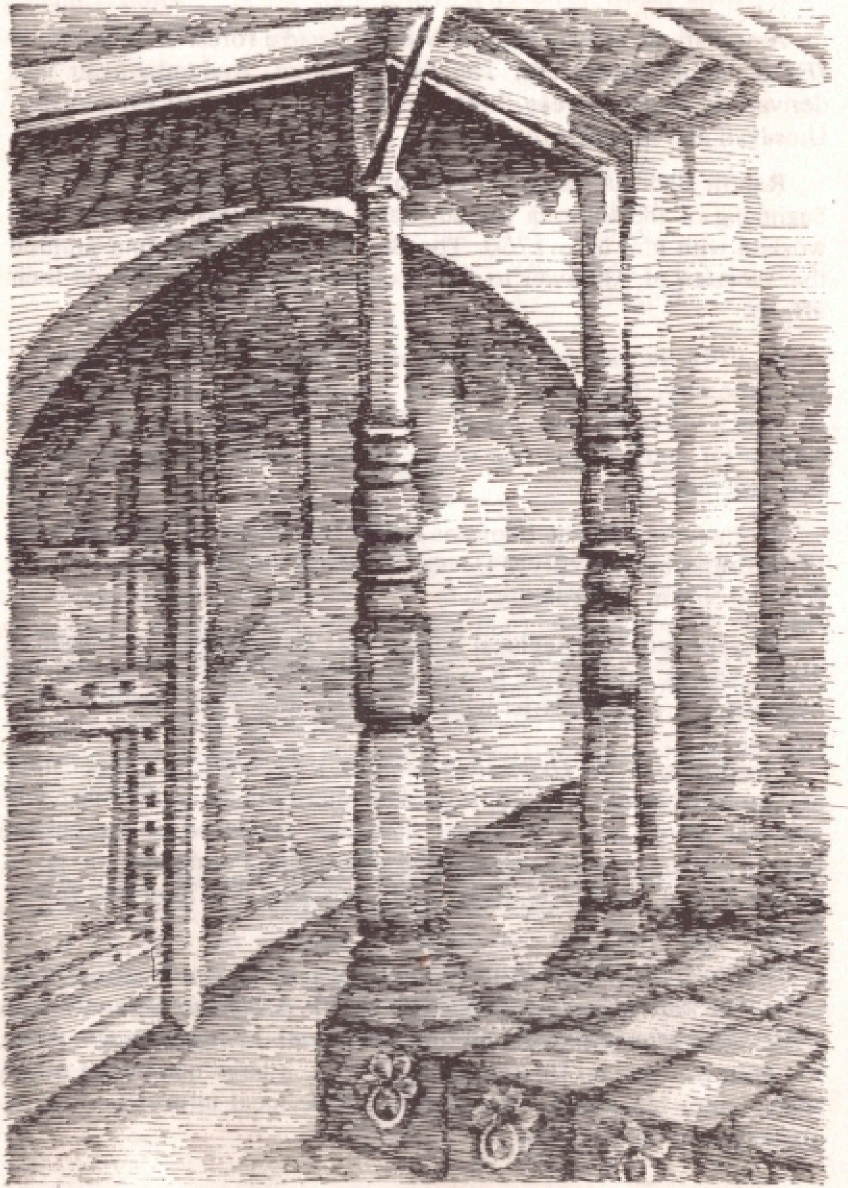
[3] *Hyderabad Residency Records*, Vol. 79, p. 157.



Front view of Amravati Mint

COINAGE

No information about the coinage prior to 1759 is available. Thereafter a large coin, *Do-dundi paisa,* appears to have been minted until the end of 1772. This coin is incorrectly attributed to Hinganghat mint in the *K. M. Catalogue.*[4]

There are a number of contemporary references confirming the striking of coins at Amravati. According to a letter[5] of the Officiating Assistant Commissioner at Akola to the Commissioner of West Berar dated 18th October 1870, the *Do-dundi paisa,* weighing 20 *mashas* was most popular around Amravati. Dr Gordon mentions in his report that the Amravati coins weighed 20*mashas.*[6] These coins were so popular that they continued to circulate upto the end of 19th century and were counterfeited in large quantity in the Punjab. Criminal Case No. 500 of 1870 against the counterfeiters and other allied correspondnece tell us that the *Do-dundi* paisas forged in Punjab were brought to Amravati (the place of manufacture) via Badnera by rail.[7]

Saint Dasganu mentions in his work, *Shri Gajanana Vijaya*[8], that *Do-dundi paisa* and *Vyaghrambari paisa* (the tiger paisa of Ellichpur) were most common in Berar. The word *Ali* written with *ye-e-majhool* on the obverse of these coins is so expanded that it looks like two parallel lines; hence the name *Do-dundi.*

The pedigree of these coins can be traced back to the Poona paisas. As the Poona and Amravati coins look alike the difference is explained here.

Coins of Poona bear a mint name *Punah* – crudely written *puta* like that of the *Ankushi* rupees . Sometimes they also depict a mint name *Nasr* ... which might be Nasirbad. These coins are found in western Maharashtra. On the other hand, the Amravati coins have a thick crude legend unlike the fine Poona paisas. A better distinguishing mark is the word *Shah.* On the Poona coins it is artistically inscribed

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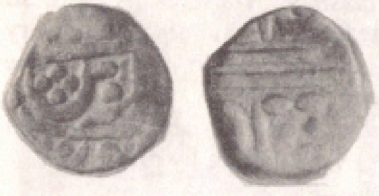
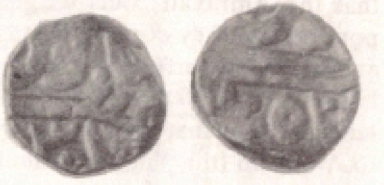
4. Krause Mishler, *Standard Catalogue of World Coins,* 12th edition, p. 1224, KM 22.
5. *Berar Records,* Financial Department, Case File of 1870.
6. Appendix 2, *Bundle Correspondence Records,* Answer to Question No. 16.
7. Refer Chapter 4, Counterfeit Coins; cf. P. P. Kulkarni, "British Control on the circulation of spurious and other Indian coins," *Spinks Numismatic Circular,* Oct. 1984, pp. 254-5.
8. Dasganu Maharaj, *Shri Gajanan Vijaya, C.* 1878, 16th edn, Shegaon, 1973, Ch. II, Clause 48 - खडकू दुंदडी व्याघ्रांबरी ही मुसलमानी नाणी सारी चालत होती व्यवहारी तदा वऱ्हाड प्रांती.

as شاه or شاه.. At times we are unable to make out anything of these coins; the mark appears as ∵ if we hold the coin upside down. On Amravati coins this word is inscribed as شاه . Most of the Poona coins have a stylised legend that appears very fine as compared to the Amravati coins. This distinguishes the one from the other. The legend is intended to be *Shah Ali Gauhar* but the cruder types show a jumble of *Shah Jahan* and *Shah Ali Gauhar*. It is noted that the clearer Shah Jahan the III's type comes only from western Maharashtra.

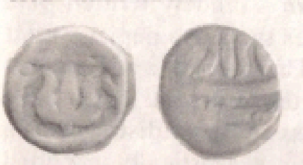


Poona Coin

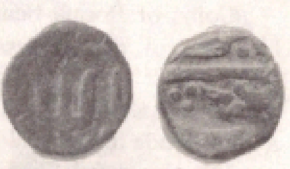


Amravati Coin

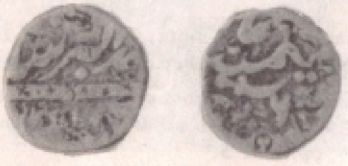
The silver coins of the Nizam struck during AH 1238-40 at Amravati bear the name of Sikandar Jah. The copper coins however, have a different legend which is likely to be confused with the Bhonsla coins. Only two such coins have been discovered so far. The first has a clear mint name *Amravati* and a typical Nizam sword. The second depicts a clearer sword like that of Govind Bakshi, the *subedar* of the Nizam, as found on his Aurangabad coins, but does not have a clear mint name.



Coin 1



Coin 2



Rupee of Aurangabad mint for comparison of sword

It is tempting to attribute these coins to the Bhonslas because of the trident mark, but they were evidently copied by the mint-masters of the Nizam from the greatly popular *Trisooli* coin of Nagpur during 1810-1847. This can be deduced from the fact that the copper mint at Nagpur was started in 1810 before which period the Amravati mint could not have copied the trident symbol, and during 1810-1847 it was fully under the Nizam. It is noted that the Bhonsla *Do-dundi* coins of Amravati confirm to 20 *masha* standard of nearby Ellichpur mint, whereas the later Nizam coins follow the 10 *masha* weight standard of the contemporary Tiger *Paisa*s of Ellichpur.

As the *Do-dundi* coins bear the name of Shah Alam II they were struck after 1759 (the accession of Shah Alam II), and as the mint was closed in 1772, they fall under the reign of Janoji Bhonsla only. We find them in the dual weight standard like that of the later Mughals - of 13 and 20 *mashas* (13.52 and 21.8 g). A four-*Paisa* of 49.950 g (Type 6.1) is the most striking Bhonsla coin illustrated in this work.

BETUL

21° 51' N; 77° 58' E

Betul is a district town in Madhya Pradesh near the border of Maharashtra. Raghuji captured the fort of Betul in 1742. The fort was named Bhanwargadh, and served as a military base for Raghuji's armies.

Under the Bhonslas, Betul was of little importance but during the British period it was made a treasury town for the collection of revenue.

COINAGE

According to Dr Gordon, a copper pice of 12 *mashas* (12.48 g) was struck at Betul before 1810.[9] No coin can be attributed to this place as yet.

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[9] Appendix 2. *Bundle Correspondence Records,* Answer to Question No. 16.

BORI POWNEE

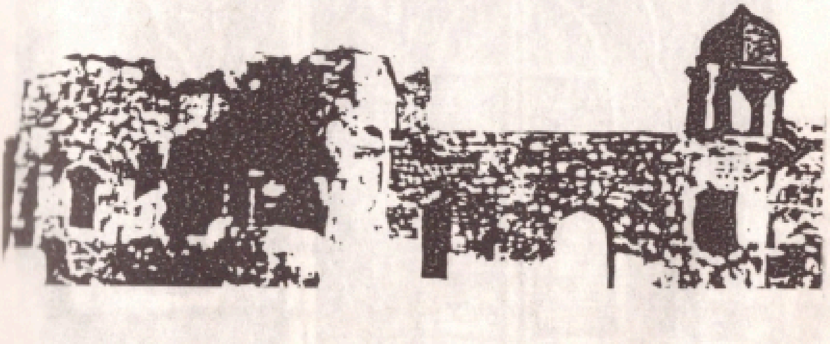
20° 48' N; 79° 39' E

Bori Pownee or Pawani is situated in Bhandara district to the south-east of Nagpur. Being an old place dating back to the Mauryan period, Pawani was called locally as *Budhi* (old). This was translated by the British as *Bori Pownee.* A small village now, it was a very important place during the Gond and Bhonsla period. Raghuji I conquered it in 1736 and entrusted it to his *sardar* Tulojirampant.[10] It remained with the Bhonslas till it was taken over by the British in 1854.

COINAGE

Dr Gordon says that, "the mint at Bori Pownee was established by a Sonar about forty years ago by permission of Dewajee Pundit commonly known by the name Chor Choureewalla. On his own authority about $2^1/_2$ lacks rupees were made in it when it was suppressed by the order of the Sirkar."[11]

It has not been possible so far to attribute any known coins to this mint.



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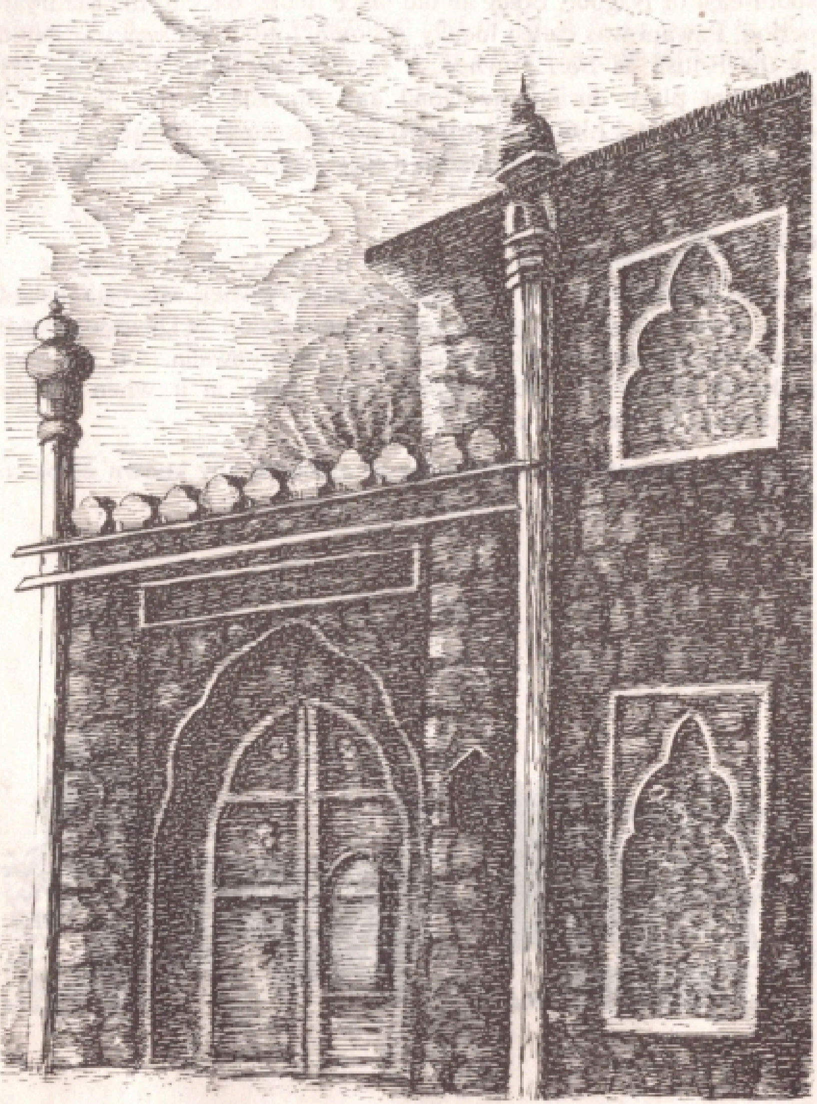
[10] *Nagpurkar Bhonslyancha Itihas,* p. 44.

[11] Appendix 1, *Bundle Correspondence Records,* Answer to Question No. 1.



Chanda Mint - now a Mosque

CHANDA

19° 57' N; 79° 21' E

Chanda or Chandrapur was established by the Gond ruler Khandki Ballal Shah in 1475. The story about the foundation of Chanda fort, though a legend, is nonetheless, interesting. When Khandki Ballal Shah was out hunting one day, he saw the strange scene of a hare chasing his hunting dog. His queen interpreted this to mean that the place had some spiritual power to change even the most cowardly creature into a brave one. The king therefore decided to construct a fort at that site and make it his capital. As the hare had a moon-like mark on its forehead, the place was named Chanda - meaning moon.

Raghuji invaded Chanda in 1730 when Ram Shah was ruling. Raghuji was impressed by Ram Shah's saintly behaviour. Because of this he made him a feudatory and started receiving tributes from him.

The Gonds ruled Chanda upto 1749 when Nilkanth Shah, a tyrant invited the attention of Raghuji I to his unjust rule. Raghuji marched to Chanda, occupied the fort and placed his man, Timajipant Talkute as *Killedar.* In 1751, however, Nilkanth Shah again revolted. He was finally defeated and kept as a prisoner in the fort of Ballal Shah. Krishnaji Karande was thereafter made its *subedar.*

Chanda remained with the Bhonslas until it was captured by the British under Captain Scott on 20th May 1818.

The mint of Chanda was located in the centre of the town at a place named *Kotwali.* It has now been converted into a mosque (see the illustration).

COINAGE

According to Dr Gordon the mint at Chanda was established many years previously and was said to be coeval with the Nagpur mint.[12] Mr Lushington, the Secretary to the Government of India, mentioned the types of Nagpur rupees in his letter of 14.7.1856 to the Officiating Secretary to the Government. About Chanda rupees, he says that 5000 rupees of *Chunderpoorea za Chanda neshanee Sawachar* were equal to 4183/5/11 company rupees.[13] This valuable reference also mentions that the Chanda rupee bore a mark of *Sawachar,* i.e., $4^{1}/_{4}$ in Nagari characters ४। . This was written as like an inverted Nagari *ma.*

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[12] Appendix 1, *Bundle Correspondence Records,* Answer to Question No. 1.

[13] Appendix 6, *Bundle Correspondence Records,* Finance Department, Letter No. 3370, Case File No. 2 of 1857.

This mark is found placed upside down on a category of 'Surat' rupees of Muhammad Shah. They come from the Chanda area and are therefore identified as the Chanda rupees. The same coin was wrongly attributed to Hinganghat mint by Prinsep[14] and though correctly attributed by the *K. M. Catalogue,*[15] the King's name was misread as Ahmad Shah.

It may be observed that the British officers (Lushington, Prinsep, etc.) described the marks on the coins as they appeared to them, whereas the marks had their own different meanings. This mark is more like an inverted Nagari म , and as $4^{1}/_{4}$ does not signify anything, it is possible that the mark was originally intended for *ma,* possibly an abbreviation of *Mahakali,* the principal goddess of Chanda.

The pedigree of Chanda rupees is traceable via those of Nagpur. Since early Nagpur rupees were copied from the Surat rupees of Muhammad Shah, Raghuji I might have sent a specimen of the Nagpur rupee to Chanda and ordered that similar coins be struck there. The specimen rupee was that of regnal year 27. This was faithfully copied at Chanda with the additional marks and .

It is also possible that the Chanda mint was actually started in the 27th regnal year of Muhammad Shah, i.e., in 1745 when Nilkanth Shah was ruling and that the then current coin of Nagpur bearing the year 27 was chosen as specimen for the Chanda rupee and the same continued without any change thereafter. This is of course a hypothesis because these regnal years do not necessarily indicate the actual year of striking.

The mint name on the Nagpur rupees was changed to Cuttack in 1747, but this change was not introduced at Chanda, where the rupees bore the mint name *Surat.* This was probably done to differentiate between the two.

The Chanda mint thus started around 1750, and continued to operate upto 1820. During this period it continued to strike the same regnal year 27 Surat rupees, with the exception of a very small number with regnal year 47. There is no way to distinguish them by ruler unless it is assumed that they followed the same weight standard as that of the Nagpur coins. This infact would fit well, giving three different categories of coins.

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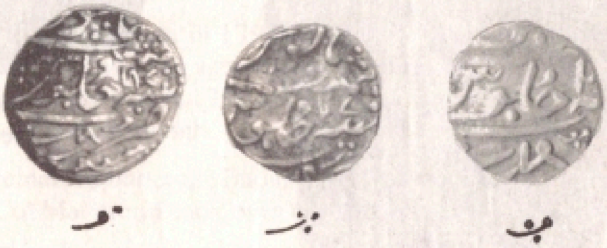
[14] James Princep *Useful Tables,* p. 66, No. 10.

[15] *Standard Catalogue of World Coins,* 12th edn, p. 1224, No. 12.

First : Raghuji I - 86 *ruttees* or 11.18 g standard. The coins have the identifying mark of a sword

Second : Janoji - 85 *ruttees* or 11.05 g standard. The identifying mark is a slightly different sword with three dots

Third : Raghuji II and later Kings - 83½ or 83 *ruttees,* i.e.. 10.885 - 10.790 g standard. Identifying mark is

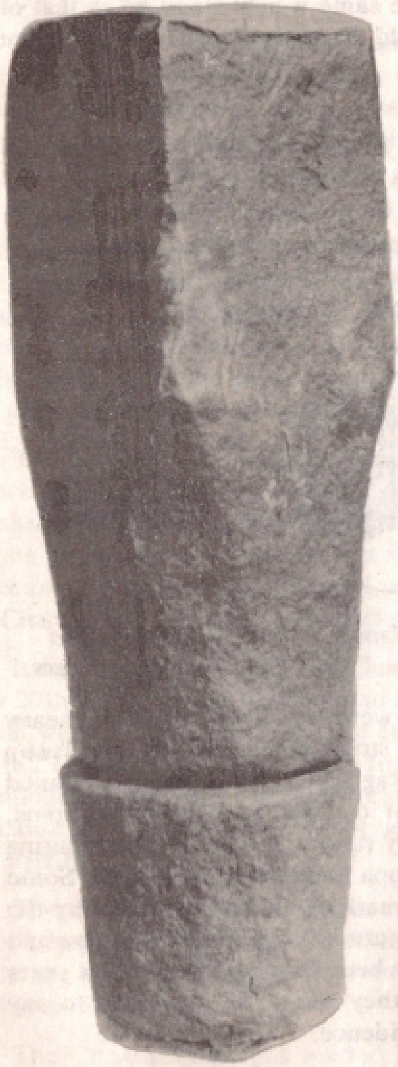


Sword :

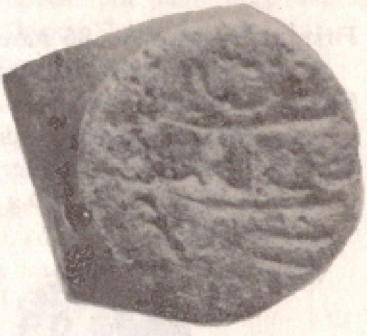
King : *Raghuji I* *Janoji* *Raghuji II and later rulers.*

The coins of the third category were very rarely found as heavy as 85 *ruttees.* They might have been struck in the last period of Janoji or in the first couple of years of Raghuji II as the latter continued Janoji's weight standard for a year or two. The 83 *ruttee* coins, however, cannot be distinguished by ruler. They were struck during the rule of Raghuji II, Parsoji II, Appa Saheb and Raghuji III. Some of these coins have the additional mark of an *Ankus* (goad) by the side of regnal year. These coins are cruder than the earlier type and are of inferior silver. They must have been struck during the last years of the mint's operation. However, they cannot be attributed to any particular ruler due to the lack of evidence.

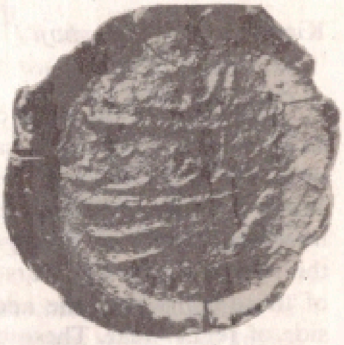
A pair of coin dies of the last type has been discovered in the house of Azizmiya Tanksale, one of the descendants of the mint-master Hayatmiya Tanksale This pair weighs around one kilogram and is made of steel. Though the bottom die is worn out, the top one is quite legible as illustrated



Coin dies of the Chanda Mint



Fascimile of the upper die



An impression of the upper die

CHOWRAGADH

20° 35' N; 79° 55' E

The fort of Chowragadh is situated in the Narsingpur district, a little to the south of the river Narbada. A very strong fort, it was built by Sangram Shah, founder of the Gond dynasty of Gadha-Mandla. Asaf Khan, *sardar* of the Mughal emperor Akbar, captured it in the latter half of the 16th century and Mughal governors conducted the administration for a few years. As this was not very profitable, Akbar restored the territory to Chandra Shah, the then Gond ruler, and made him his feudatory.

In the early 18th century, the Peshwas took over the fort of Chowragadh and started collecting revenue from the adjoining areas.

After the battle of Kharda in 1795, Raghuji II obtained this place from Nana Fadnavis under an agreement. Raghuji, however, got the actual possession of the fort in 1798 after defeating the local *jamidars* Laxmansingh and Gardhapsingh.

The place remained under the Bhonslas only for 20 years. In 1818, the British Lt Col Macmorin took over the fort on the 12th May.

COINAGE

Practically nothing is known about the Chowragadh mint and its coins. A single reference occurs in the *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*[16] in a letter from the Principal Assistant to the Agent of the Governor General at Hatta, dated 17th April 1826. This letter, addressed to Captain Maddock mentioned that the Chowragadh rupee was 5 per cent worse than the *Zariputka.* We have been unable to identify any coin of this mint to date.

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[16] *Jubbelpore Divisional Records,* Revenue Department, Case File of 1826.

CUTTACK

20° 28' N; 85° 54' E

Cuttack, the principal city in Orissa, is a famous place from very old days. It was annexed by Akbar in AH 1000 when Man Singh inflicted a crushing defeat on its Afghan ruler.

During Aurangzeb's time his *sardar*, Jafar Khan, was stationed there. He administered the province in a most successful manner increasing its revenue to one and a half crore rupees. Jafar Khan died during the time of Muhammad Shah. He was succeeded by his son Shujauddin. On the death of Shujauddin in 1739, his *sardar*, Alivardi Khan marched against Shujauddin's son Sarfaraj, and killed him. Alivardi Khan got the *subedari* of Bengal and Orissa but not peace. He was constantly harassed by the army of Raghuji I. The Maratha army kept on plundering the area for years until Raghuji finally got full control over Orissa by 1747. He stationed Mir Habib and Janoji at Midnapur during that period. The Marathas thereafter became so aggressive that Alivardi finally had to sign a treaty ceding Orissa to them in 1751.

Cuttack came under Bhonsla rule in 1747. It remained with them until 1803 when it went to the British under the treaty of Devagaon.

COINAGE

The mint at Cuttack began striking coins in the reign of Akbar and continued doing so for a long period of over 200 years and more. Rupees and mohurs were struck in large numbers upto the time of Aurangzeb. Thereafter the mint operated intermittently. We know only two coins of Muhammad Shah – a mohur of 1135/4 and a rupee of 1154/24. During Ahmad Shah's time Cuttack was fully under the Bhonslas. Only two coins of this king actually minted at Cuttack are known; both fall under Raghuji I's reign. There are a large number of other Cuttack coins of Ahmad Shah but they were copied from those originally struck at Cuttack and were struck at different mints. These mints are Nagpur, Jabalpur and some others not known. The Nagpur rupees are very easily identifiable from their fabric. They have two identifiable dots over the *he* of *Badshah*. These are never found on the original Cuttack coins. The Jabalpur coins bear a date 51, the 5 of which is written most unconventionally as Ɛ . The date is followed by a mark like a Persian *N*.

Another strange series of Ahmad Shah's rupees bear dates from AH 1177 to 1188 written above the word *sanah.* These coins were certainly not minted at Cuttack or Nagpur. They are discussed under the heading, 'Uncertain Mints.'

Only one coin of Alamgir II has been found.And a rupee of the 3rd regnal year of Shah Alam II that was in the collection of Dr White King[17] can be attributed to Janoji Bhonsla. A quarter rupee of the 2nd regnal year has also been found and published here.

Of Raghuji II's reign only two coins were known till now - both rupees of regnal year 22 of Shah Alam II, one square and the other round. An octagonal coin has been found recently. This striking piece is described under Type 19.2. A coin of regnal year 15, is also described for the first time. No coin of Shah Alam II after regnal year 22 is known from Cuttack mint. The mint must have been closed soon after that date.

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[17] *Numismatic Supplement (JASB)*, Vol. XIII, p. 238.

DARWHA

20° 19' N; 77° 49' E

Darwha is a taluka town in the Yeotmal district,and is apparently of great age. It never grew large but is said to have been of some importance during the Bhonsla period. It was taken over by Kanhoji, while he was stationed at his nearby headquarter in Bham. Later, Raghuji I gave the *subedari* of this place to his third son Sabaji. It remained with the Bhonslas up to 1803.

COINAGE

Dr Gordon mentions copper paisa struck at *Dharwa* weighing 16 *mashas* (16.64 g)[18]. But no coin of this mint has yet been identified. Coin Type 103 is normally discovered in Yeotmal district. It might be a half paisa of Darwha.

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[18] Appendix 2, *Bundle Correspondence Records*, Answer to Question No. 16.

GARHAKOTA

23° 42' N; 79° 10' E

Situated in the Rehli tahsil of the Sagar district, this town was founded by the Gond rulers of Devagadh. In the beginning of the 18th century it was conquered by Hirde Shah, the ruler of Panna. Within a short period thereafter, the Peshwas gained power over most of the region that lay in Malwa. The rulers of Panna, Orchha and Datia were, for all intents and purposes,reduced to feudatories under the Peshwas.

After the defeat of the Marathas at Panipat in 1761, all these petty chiefs turned against them. At that time Janoji reached Bundelkhand and controlled these chiefs. He took over Sagar, Garhakota, Hatta, Rewamukund, Jhansi and other small places and stayed in Bundelkhand for about a year. It seems he struck some coins during that period at Garhakota.

In 1807, the Bhonslas again attacked Garhakota, but before they could capture it, Sindhia's Commander Jean Baptist rushed to take it over. The Bhonslas and the Sindhias made an agreement, marched over Bhopal and the adjoining area,and shared the territory. In 1810, the Bhonsla forces made yet another abortive attempt to capture the place and killed its ruler Mardan Singh. Garhakota thereafter remained under the Sindhias till it was taken over by the British in 1861.

COINAGE

The debased Balashahi coins minted during 1825 certainly belong to the Sindhias. They are well discussed by Lingen and Wiggins.[19]

There is, however, a different type of coins purely of Bhonsla fabric bearing the mint name *Gadhakota.* It seems it was struck during 1762-63 by Janoji Bhonsla. These coins were first published in the *Numismatic Supplement*[20] where H. N. Wright deciphered the mint names as *Gadhnarat* and *Nagarat.* Hodivala corrected him and finally read *Gadhakota* on those specimens.[21] These coins reappear in the *Nagpur Museum Catalogue.* The first - again read as *Gadhnarat*,[22] and the second ascribed to *Nagore.*[23]

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[19] Jan Lingen and Ken Wiggins, *Coins of the Sindhias*, pp. 39-40.

[20] H. N. Wright, 'Treasure Trove (Mughal)', *Numismatic Supplement (JASB)*, Vol. XIII, pp. 241-242.

The Nagore or Nagarat coin certainly has clear *hakot*, the *Gadh* of which must be on the right side of *Zar (b)*; whereas the other coin has a different style of legend arrangement having the complete *Gadhakot* to the left of *Zar (b).* (see Type 13).

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[21] S. H. Hodivala 'Notes and Suggestions about some unassigned or doubtful Mughal mints', *Numismatic Supplement (JASB)*, Vol. XXXI, pp. 344 ff.

[22] M. K. Hussain, *Catalogue of Coins in the Central Museum Nagpur.* Part II, No. 1168.

[23] *Ibia.*, No. 1215.

HINGANGHAT

20° 34' N; 78° 53' E

Hinganghat is a small town in the Wardha district. It was famous during the Bhonsla period for the production of cotton and cotton textiles. It remained under the Bhonslas till the end of their kingdom.

COINAGE

We have not yet discovered any coin that can be ascribed to this mint. The copper paisas that are attributed to Hinganghat by the authors of *Standard Catalogue of World Coins*[24] are very rarely found in and around Hinganghat. They are really the paisas of Amravati mint.

Hinganghat actually had a silver mint and not copper. Dr Gordon says that, "the mint at Hinganghat was established by Nana Sahib, brother to the late Raghojee about 18 years ago. It was carried on for a year or two and then stopped by the Rajah's desire. Appa Sahib reopened it during the short time he was on the musnud".[25]

Richard Jenkins adds to the *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, that, "Appasahib reopened the Hinganghat mint and we abolished it immediately on his removal from the musnud. None of the rupees of this coinage are now in circulation".[26]

In short, the mint worked during 1805-6 and also during 1817-18. In his *Useful Tables*, Prinsep tried to read Hinganghat on one of the Chanda rupees, which was obviously wrong.[27] We have not yet found any coin attributable to the Hinganghat mint.

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[24] Krause Mishler, *Standard Catalogue of World Coins*, 12th edn, p. 1224, KM 22.

[25] Appendix 1, *Bundle Correspondence Records*, Answer to Question No. 1.

[26] *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Political Department, Case File of 1823, letter from Resident R. Jenkins to George Swinton dated 15th November 1823.

[27] James Prinsep, *Useful Tables*, p. 66.

JABALPUR

23° 10' N; 79° 59' E

Jabalpur or Gadha is a principal city in Madhya Pradesh. It was founded in the 13th century by Jadurai, the Gond ruler, and was developed by his descendant, Sangram Shah. In 1651, the town was captured by Pahad Singh Bundela on behalf of Shah Jahan. The Gond ruler Hirde Shah thereafter shifted his capital to Mandla. The whole area was hence called the kingdom of Gadha-Mandla.

When Maharaj Shah was on the throne (1732-42) the Peshwas arrived on the scene. They ruled Jabalpur until 1795, when Nana Fadnavis gave possession of Gadha-Mandla to Raghuji II. The Bhonslas, however, had to wait until 1799 to get actual possession of the area due to strong resistance from the local Peshwa chiefs.

On 19th December 1817, the British General Hardiman marched to Jabalpur. The Bhonsla army numbering only 3000 were defeated within two days and the British took over Jabalpur. Soon after, it was made the capital of Sagar and Narbada territories.

COINAGE

Resident Jenkins mentions that, "the mint at Jubbelpore was transferred there from Mundula. It was abolished by us on taking charge of the country in 1818..... The Jubbelpore rupees assayed in Calcutta in 1819 only give grains 148.144 of pure silver and those assayed in 1823 from 145.250 to 146.633, according to the statement given in Mr. Mackenzie's note, which must all be referred to Raghujee's, Parsojee's and Appa Sahib's reigns".[28]

Prinsep tells us in his *Useful Tables*[29] that a base currency was struck at Jabalpur by Nana Ghatka. It had the mark of Nagari 76 ७६.

Coin Type 22 described later in this work is a Cuttack rupee of Ahmad Shah. It has a date ६١ (51) the 5 of which looks like Nagari 6. The date is flanked by a symbol like ن on the right side (this is off the flan in the illustrated specimen) and by the word *julus* on the left. The *pesh* or *'u'* of *ju* being close to the date gives the appearance of Nagari 76, as deciphered by Prinsep. Undoubtedly, the coin belongs to Jabalpur mint. The full mark ناعب is nothing but the *pesh (u) of julus*, date 51 and a Persian *N* which must have denoted Nana Ghatka- the mint master. The date 51 like that on any other Bhonsla coin is a frozen date. The mint name is clearly Cuttack like the Nagpur rupees.

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[28] *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Political Department, File of 1823, letter of Resident Jenkins II of George Swinton, Secretary to the Government, dated 15th November 1823.

[29] James Prinsep, *Useful Tables*, pp. 29 and 68.

A letter to Mr Maddook from the Principal Agent to the Governor General at Hatta, dated 17th April 1826 mentions that the *Bal Sikkah* or the Jubbelpore rupee was 1 per cent better as bullion than the *Zariputka.*[30] The name *Bal Sikkah* is very significant. The mint at Mandla struck rupees bearing the mint name Balanager Gadha. These rupees were therefore named *Balashahi.* As the mint at Mandla was transferred to Jabalpur in AD 1800, the coin dies of *Balashahi* rupees also might have been transferred there and a similar coin minted for a short period, this too being called the *Bal Sikkah.* This is, of course, a hypothesis, but it is certain that the Cuttack rupees were minted at Jabalpur up to 1817.

Mr Wilder, the Assistant to the Governor General at Jabalpur wrote to Mr Charles Fraser, the Principal Assistant, on 7th September 1825 that, "Wishing to introduce a copper currency at Nursinghpur of the same weight and standard as has been established here by my predecessors, I shall be obliged by your having a stamp (Bala Shaee) made up and sending it to me with a few specimens of the present Jubbelpore pice in order to be forwarded to Mr. Stephens".[31]

We now find exactly similar copper coins. Illustrated under Type 20, these are of a hybrid form of the *Nagpuri* and the *Balashahi* coinage.

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[30] *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Revenue Department, File of 1826.

[31] *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Revenue Department, File of 1825.

JAMOD

21° 3' N; 76° 35' E

Jamod, better known as Jalgaon-Jamod, is situated about 60 kilometers north-west of Akola. It had a big fort, the remains of which still exist. Local sources mention that the mint existed in the fort. Though Jamod was not a very important place, it was famous for its betel leaf growers, who had and even now have great magical powers. A community *Bari* dominates this profession in Jamod. Jamod remained under Bhonsla rule until 1803, when it was given to the Nizam.

COINAGE

A letter to the Commissioner of West Berar from the Deputy Commissioner of Akola district dated 19th October 1870 gives a list of coins circulating in Khamgaon *Bazars.*[32] Amongst them is a *Jamodie* paisa that weighed 20 *mashas,* (20.8 g) two of which made an *Anna.* The *Jamodie* paisa finds reference in several items of contemporary correspondence. It appears that it was a popular coin.

We do not find clear mint name *Jamod* on any coin. Coin Type 71 is found around that area and is likely to be a contender for the Jamod mint.

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[32] *Berar Records,* Finance Department, File of 1870.

MANDLA

22° 36’ N; 80° 23’ E

Mandla is a beautiful place, little south-east of Jabalpur, situated on the bank of the Narbada river. As mentioned earlier in this book under the notes on Jabalpur mint, the Gond ruler Hirde Shah shifted his captial to Mandla from Gadha in 1651. He was followed by a long line of successors until 1742, when Maharaj Shah the then ruler was killed in a battle with the army of Nanasahib Peshwa. Shivaraj Shah and Nizam Shah were enthroned thereafter by the Peshwa. Gond rule did not last long, the Marathas finally annexing Mandla in 1781.

The whole of Gadha-Mandla was given to Raghuji II by Nana Fadnavis in 1795. Raghuji, however, had to take possession forcibly in 1798 from the *killedar* of Mandla.

The Fort of Mandla remained under Bhonsla rule until 26th April 1818. when Major General Marshall captured it for the British.

COINAGE

The earliest rupee of Mandla is dated AH 1198 or AD 1793. The mint name on the coin is *Balanagar Gadha*. The capital of the kingdom of Gadha-Mandla was thus called Mandla-Gadha or Balanagar-Gadha. It seems that the town was given the name Balanagar after Balaji Govind Kher, the Peshwa *subedar* who administered the territory most successfully. The last date on these rupees is regnal year 38 of Shah Alam II (1796-97), which falls under the reign of the Peshwa rulers. Coins of regnal years 39, 40 and 41 have not yet come to light. If they are found, they would belong to the Bhonsla rule between 1798-1800. In 1800 the mint was dismantled and all the equipment shifted to the Jabalpur mint.[33]

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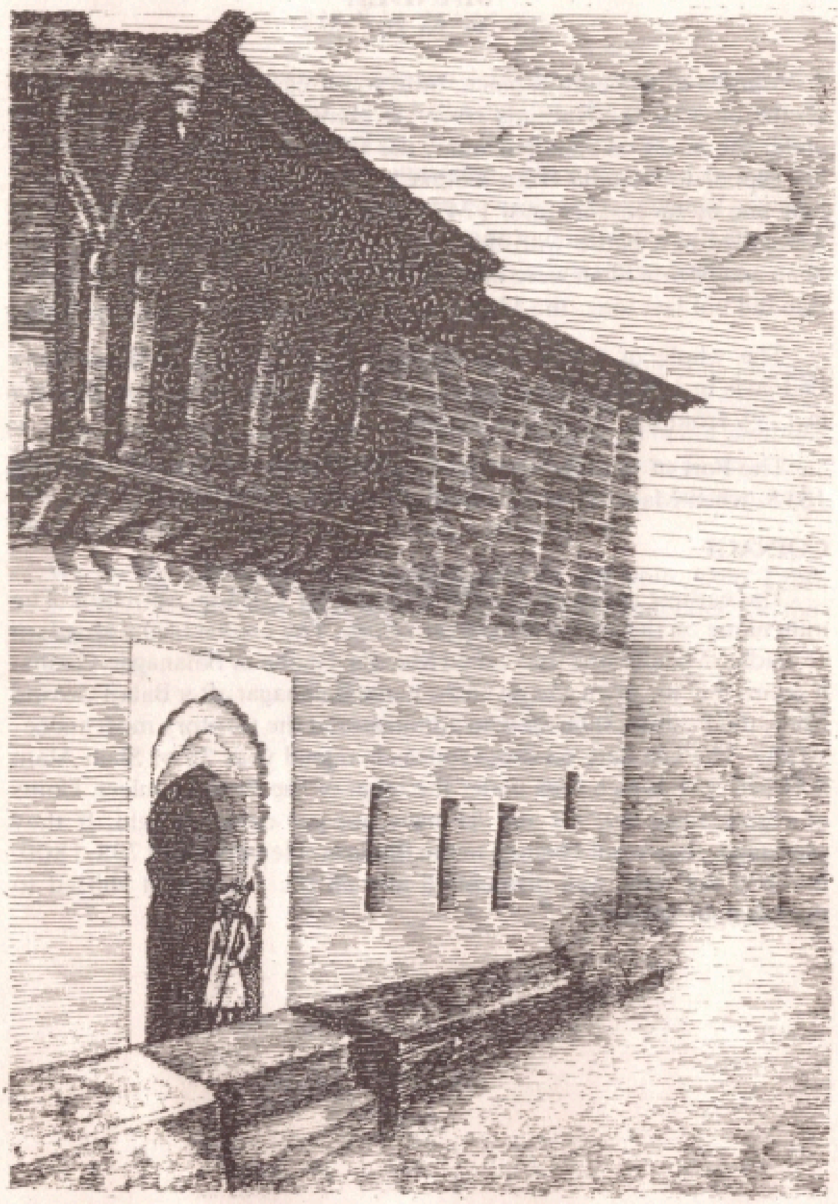
[33] *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Political Department, File of 1823.



Front view of Nagpur Mint

NAGPUR

21° 9' N; 79° 9' E

Nagpur is an important city almost in the centre of India. Before that Nagpur was a village, founded during the 8th century by the Rashtrakutas. During the 17th century it was known as Rajapur Barsa, as twelve nearby villages were annexed to it by Jatba, the founder of the Gond dynasty of Devagadh. Bakht Buland (1687-1706) constructed roads, water tanks and *bazars* at Nagpur, and during his rule and thereafter, Nagpur flourished to such an extent that in 1738 it was made the capital of the Bhonsla kingdom when Raghuji I seized it from the last of the Gond rulers.

During the Bhonsla rule, Nagpur achieved great importance as the capital. The population of Nagpur increased rapidly and new business establishments started. Enterprising people grew oranges for profit. Salt, coconut, spices, sulpher, sandalwood and medicines were imported into Nagpur, whereas cotton, raw sugar, betel leaves and fruits were exported.

The sovereignty of Nagpur lasted for more than a century. It was annexed to the British empire in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie and the Bhonsla kingdom became extinct. Under British rule, Nagpur was the capital of the Central Provinces and Berar, and is now one of the largest cities in India.

Nagpur mint was located in the heart of the city. A front view of the mint building is illustrated. It is now called the *Kothi* (Treasury), and the road in front of it as the Kothi road.

COINAGE

Very little information about the coinage of Nagpur mint was available till recently. But we now know almost the entire history of the coinage and economy of Nagpur.

The mint at Nagpur was established around 1730 by the Gond ruler, Chand Sultan. According to Dr Gordon, the mint was established by the authorisation of the Mughal emperor, Muhammad Shah, to meet the shortage of rupee coins required for payment of tribute.[34] He tells us that rupees weighing 86 *ruttees* were minted in the name of emperor Muhammad Shah. It is very difficult to identify these early coins of the Nagpur mint, but the large amount of Surat rupees found in and around Nagpur alongwith the Chanda and Cuttack rupees offer a solution of this problem (Type 3). They can be distinguished from the original Surat rupees of Muhammad Shah by their crudeness, by the floral mint marks and also by their weights. These coins weigh about 10.9 to 11.2 g and are found principally in Berar. The *ruttee* at Nagpur was slightly heavier, i.e., about 0.130 g, thus making the coin of 86 *ruttees* weigh 11.18 g. These coins normally weigh about this theoretical weight unlike the original Surat rupees which usually scale around 11.6 g.

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[34] Appendix I, *Bundle Correspondence Records*, Answer to Question No. 22.

Surat rupees circulated very widely. Being of good weight and of best silver, the *Soorti* rupees were readily accepted by the people. This must be one of the reasons for selecting the Surat coins for copying at Nagpur.

Dr Gordon tells us, "on this country being conquered by Raghujee the name of Ahmad Shaw was impressed on the coinage".[35] This statement needs a little revision, because when Raghuji conquered Nagpur in 1738, Muhammad Shah was ruling at Delhi. Naturally Raghuji could not have thought of Ahmad Shah but must have continued the striking of crude Surat rupees in the name of Muhammad Shah. 1738 was the 20th regnal year of Muhammad. Hence all such coins from RY 20 onwards certainly belong to the rule of Raghuji I. As the mint began in the 10th or 11th regnal year of Muhammad Shah, coins bearing regnal years 10 to 20 ought to fall under the Gond rule. But this cannot be true, the reason being that coins of this type exist with regnal years prior to year 10. Since the mint did not exist prior to RY 10, who struck the coins ? There is no ready answer to this unless it is assumed that the dates do not follow a true dating system. The mint-masters did not put true dates but continued to copy the years that were on the specimens available to them. They may have copied all the dates on the Surat rupees of Muhammad Shah and added ornamental marks on their initiative.

It is possible that some of these coins (Type 3) were struck during the Gond rule, but these cannot be distinguished from the Bhonsla coins. They are discussed here systematically for the first time.

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[35] *Ibid.*

In 1747 Raghuji consolidated Bhonsla rule in Orissa, and Ahmad Shah succeeded to the throne of Delhi in the following year. The coins of the Cuttack mint struck in 1748 naturally bore the name of Ahmad Shah. These coins were brought to Nagpur in great quantity by the victorious Raghuji and were thereafter copied at Nagpur, and the minting of 'Surat' rupees was entrusted to the Chanda mint. From 1748 to 1854 the same stereotype Ahmad Shah Cuttack rupees were struck at Nagpur. Interestingly enough, the copper coins bore the name of Nagpur when they were introduced in 1810, but the name Cuttack was never removed from the silver and gold coins of Nagpur.

The Cuttack rupees continued to be minted at Nagpur for almost a century and it was difficult to attribute them to different reigns and periods. But this has been achieved with the help of the mint records. The most important key to attribution is the variation in the weights of coins. Dr Gordon reports that;[36]

1. Raghuji I's rupee weighed 86 *ruttees* (11.18 g),
2. Janoji decreased the weight of the rupee to 85 *ruttees* (11.05 g),
3. Raghuji II first decreased the weight to 83 1/2 *ruttees* and later to 83 *ruttees* (10.79 g).

A large number of coins have been weighed and grouped into different weight ranges. From the study and comparison of fabrics as well as the style of engraving, the following conclusions have been arrived at :

Coins weighing more than 11.05 g are all of a uniform fabric and are dated regnal year 1, 4, 5 and 7. These are thus attributed to the period of Raghuji I (Type 4). The dates apparently are true regnal years of Ahmad Shah (1748-55).

By 1755 both Raghuji and Ahmad Shah had died. The mint-masters, however, did not change the name of the emperor to Alamgir II, but continued to use Ahmad Shah's name on the coins. This confused the regnal years. The mint-masters could neither put the regnal years of Ahmad Shah nor those of Raghuji. It seems that the mint-masters introduced fictitious regnal years during that period. Hodivala in his article on these coins tried to connect every date found on these coins to Hijri years[37]. His assumption that 1169, 1174, 1188 etc., are indicated by 69, 74 and 88 may be acceptable. But assuming 1207 from a mere 7 is not convincing. The grouping by weights shows that the coins dated 14, 211, 312, 48 and 57 fit into the weight standard of Janoji, i.e., between 83 1/2 and 85 *ruttees* (10.85 and 11.05 g). According to Hodivala, these dates can be reconstructed as (12)14, (1)211 and 11(48). But the date 312 cannot possibly be 1312 as this date falls outside the Bhonsla rule. Hodivala does not say anything about the dates 511 and 521. Can they be 1511 and 1521 ? Or, read in reverse 1115 and 1125 ? No. It seems more probable that the first digit indicates some code number and the subsequent digits represent the regnal years. If this is accepted, in regnal year 14, code number is 1, and actual regnal year is 4; 211 has code number 2 and regnal year 11; 312 is of the regnal year 12; 48 belongs to the regnal year 8; and 57 to the regnal year 7. According to this theory, no known coin shows a date beyond the possible regnal years of Bhonsla rulers. This, however, must remain purely conjectural as it has not been possible to decipher the code numbers. The coins are, however, certainly of Janoji's period according to the weights (Type 14).

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[36] As note 34.

There is a series of Cuttack rupees strangely bearing Hijri dates in place of the regnal years or bearing regnal years alongwith a tiny flag. The dates ranging from (11)77 to (11)88 (AH 1177 to 1188) fall within the reigns of Janoji and Raghuji II. But these coins are too heavy. Sometimes they are heavier than 11.4 g. The heaviest rupee of Nagpur mint had a weight of 11.18 g. Thus they were certainly not struck at the Nagpur mint. These coins are discussed under the heading 'Uncertain Mints' and are illustrated under Types 15 and 35.

Coins bearing the dates 511, 512, 521 etc., are conspicuously light in weight. Inspite of weighing hundreds of specimens no coin dated 511 was found to be heavier than 10.79 g - the theoretical 83 *ruttee* standard. Even the rupees in extrememly fine condition do not weigh more than 10.8 g (including 0.01 g of dirt on the surface of the coin). These coins can be certainly attributed to Raghuji II and the later rulers (Type 29).

The coins dated 512 and 521 weigh 10.85 g on an average. Thus they fall under the earlier period of Raghuji II when the coins were made of 83 1/2 *ruttees* or 10.855 g of silver. In cases, a few extremely fine specimens weigh around 10.9 g, i.e., a little above the theoretical 83 1/2 *ruttees*. These are certainly sporadic issues, as no such piece is ever found weighing about 11 g, or of Janoji's weight standard. Some of them bear filing marks on the edge and still weigh 10.85 g. This indicates that the blanks or the coins were weighed, and when found heavier than the prescribed standard, were filed at the edges so as to reduce them to the correct weight. The very few 10.9 g coins might be those specimens which were inadvertently left out from the filing procedure. The phenomenon of filing is also observed on the 83 *ruttee* or 10.79 g coins.

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[37] S. H. Hodivala "Katak rupees of Ahmad Shah", *Numismatic Supplement (JASB)*, Vol. XXXI, pp. 341 ff.

In the later years of Raghuji II, the date 511 was chosen for the coinage. It was frozen thereafter and continued upto the closure of the mint in 1854. The later coins are therefore all of 83 *ruttees* and bear date 511. On a large number of such coins, only 5 is on the flan, but it can be easily distinguished from Raghuji I's coin of the 5th regnal year. The former has a circular 5, whereas Raghuji I's coins depict it in a heart-shaped form. It may be noted that the coins bearing a heart-shaped 5 are always heavier than 11 g, whereas those with a round 5 never scale above 10.79 g. Thus, it can be surmised that great control was exercised to maintain the desired weight standards. The coins of the different rulers can thus be attributed by their weights. The rupees attributed to Raghuji I never scale more than 11.18 g - the 86 *ruttee* standard, and also never weigh less than 11.05 g - the 85 *ruttees*, unless they are very worn. Similarly, those attributed to Janoji weigh between 10.85 to 11.05 g (83 1/2 to 85 *ruttees*). Those attributed to Raghuji II and later rulers invariably weigh less than 10.79 g or 83 *ruttees*. All these coins may weigh less than their theoretical weight due to wear and tear. But even those in excellent condition do not exceed their theoretical weight, but for extremely few exceptions. Such slightly overweight coins are definitely the products of some carelessness in the minting process.

From 1800 onwards, the weights of rupees remain unchanged at 83 *ruttees*, but we find distinguishing mint-master's marks on the coins. According to the mint records, Juswantrao, Munbhutt and Mulla Huneef were in charge of the mint during the period 1808-14. We do not know their precise terms of office although it is certain that they did not work together. Their coins have the marks +, and respectively (Types 30, 31, 32). In 1815 the mint was farmed out to a contractor named Angnoolala. He put the mark on his coins.

As his contract continued into 1816, some of his coins were also struck during Parsoji II's reign (Type 33).

In the year 1817, Appa Saheb gave the mint on contract to Shivaram who had previously worked under Angnoolala. He put the mark of ◡̇ on his coins. After the seizure of Appa Saheb, the contract of Shivram was, continued for a few months in 1818. Thus a part of his coinage must be attributed to the reign of Raghuji III (Type 40).

In the middle of 1818, the contract was given to Ramjee Tanteea. Ramjee Tanteea struck coins with the assistance of Shivaram. The dot in the *moon* was removed from his coins (Type 50)[38].

Nursinghrao Ballal took charge of the mint in the middle of 1819. Shivaram still continued to assist. On the coins of Nursinghrao (Type 52) a dot was added to the right side of the *moon* mark.

In the beginning of 1820, it was discovered that the rupees were being greatly adulterated. The desired purity of 72/83 or 86.75% was secretly being reduced to as little as 83%, and in a few cases even to 80%. This adulteration was actually first perpetrated by Munbhutt. Angnoolala does not seem to have continued it, but it was repeated by Shivaram, Ramjee Tanteea and Nursinghrao Ballal. Once this adulteration came to light, the mint was immediately closed and an enquiry was instituted. The charge of the mint was thereafter taken over by Dr Gordon, the British mint-master. Up to 1824, Dr Gordon got the coinage made with the help of Bacha Ram, a local man, Captain Pew and Dr Wylie. Captain Pew introduced the letter *P* on the dies. These coins are extremely rare as the Captain was soon transferred to Chhatisgarh region (Type 53). These coins bear the mark of the *Zariputka,* the flag of the Bhonslas (Type 57). From 1825 onwards, mark *e* was added to the right top corner of the *Zariputka.* The *Zariputka* rupees of a regulated standard were readily acceptable in the markets. They were struck until the mint was closed in 1854 (Type 61).

In 1808, according to Dr Gordon, "Rajah Raghojee conceived a design of coining gold mohurs. Eight hundred were made through Bhojba Belkhoraeea. They were not however circulated but used in strings as ornaments for horses necks." A mohur similar to the rupees of Type 29 is reported to have been found. But its whereabouts are not known. A unique half mohur is the only Bhonsla gold coin available for verification (Type 62). This coin seems to have been struck by Dr Gordon.

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[38] Information regarding the marks mentioned in the preceding four paragraphs is taken from Mr Lushington's letter of 14-7-1856, *Bundle Correspondence Records,* Finance Department, Case File of 1856, Letter No. 3370 (Appendix 6).

Regarding the copper coinage of Nagpur, Dr Gordon submitted two reports during 1821-23. The following information can be gleaned from them :[39]

The mint for copper coins was started by Raghuji II in 1810. In the beginning, coins of 19 *masha* weight were struck. The weight was reduced step by step and brought down to $15^{1}/_{4}$ in 1815. The coins of the earliest type weigh between 16 to 19 *mashas* (16.64 - 19.76 g) and are generally found much worn and damaged due to chiselling. They depict a principal circular mark ✹ alongwith various other marks, e.g., dagger, flag and trident (Type 23). Those with a flag bear the mint name *Nagpur* for the first time (Type 25). The coins of $15^{1}/_{4}$ *masha* (15.86 g) standard are, however, found only in two types - Type 26 bearing a trident on the obverse and circular mark of dots on the reverse, and Type 27, bearing a flag (the reduced weight standard of Type 25). As these coins weigh more than 14 *mashas* or 14.56 g, the heaviest of the different weight standards after 1816, they can be certainly attributed to Raghuji II's period of 1810-16.

Coin Type 25, bearing a flag on one side and the legend *Ahmad Shah Badshah* on the other, are found in four different weight standards: 19 to 16 *mashas* and $15^{1}/_{4}$ *mashas* of Raghuji II; *12 mashas* of Parsoji and Appa Saheb; and 10 *mashas* of Raghuji III. As these coins are found in different weights, one may mistake them for different denominations used during the same period. But we do not find any reference to denominations in the old records, whereas great details about the reduction of weights from time to time are known. The heaviest of these are very crude and irregular in shape. The $15^{1}/_{4}$ *masha* and the 12 *masha* coins are much better. They were milled on the edge probably to check the chiselling. But this was of little avail. The milling was done, but irregularly, on the 10 *masha* coins as cunning people were able to make the milling easily even after cutting the coins.

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[39] *Memorandum of Dr I. Gordon Esq. respecting the coinage of copper :* Nagpur - 4th July, 1821, (Ref. Appendix 10); *Report of Dr I. Gordon of 1823,* Appendix 10, *Bundle Correspondance Records,* Answer to question No. 16,

During the reign of Parsoji II, the weight of copper coins was reduced to 12 *mashas* (12.48 g) by Appa Saheb. The same coins were continued during the latter's reign also. The mark of a fish has been found for the first time on coins of this weight standard.

In 1818, i.e., during Raghuji III's reign, the weights were further reduced to 10 *mashas*. Soon after, Dr Gordon appeared on the scene. He tried to reverse this trend of reduction of weights by introducing a 14 *masha* coin. These coins bear the same *Zariputka* flag introduced by Dr Gordon on the rupee coins. They are superior in execution to all the earlier coins. The most interesting fact about these coins is that they are always found with large cuts on the edges. Clever people chiselled these coins and circulated them as a paisa in those days. Due to the lack of a fixed weight standard, common people had no objection to accepting a coin of 12 *mashas* or another of 14 *mashas* reduced to 12 or 13. This situation gave rise to the business of clipping the coins and almost all the heavy coins were reduced by chiselling off. Dr Gordon increased the weight to 16 *mashas* in 1823, but for a very few days. He could not stop the public from cutting the coins. None of his 16 *masha* coins are found today, firstly because they were struck for a very short period, and secondly because they must have been cut down more readily than the 14 *masha* coins as there was a gain of two additional *mashas* of copper.

The records are silent about the copper coins after 1823. But, the Trisooli or the trident type coins of 9 *masha* weight (9.36 g) depict symbol *e*, like the rupees struck during 1825-54 at Nagpur. This *e* symbol was introduced by Dr Gordon in 1825. The copper coins are therefore attributable to the period 1825-54. This *e* mark read as the figure 9 in Nagari by Prinsep,[40] and mentioned as a *bootta* (design on cloth) by Lushington[41] is actually a representation of the counch shell. *Shankha*, or counch shell and *Chakra* or wheel are the insignia of God Vishnu. It is noted that some coins bear a small wheel or *Chakra* symbol in addition to the *Shankha* symbol.

The *Trisooli* coins weighing 9 to 9.4 g, suggest a weight standard of 9 *mashas*. Before Dr Gordon increased the weights in 1821, the trend was one of weight reduction. Hence it seems the 10 *masha* coins were brought down to 9 *mashas*. The pice weighed 10 *mashas* in 1821 when 57 of them or 570 *mashas* of copper made a rupee. 64 pice of the new coinage of 9 *mashas* were equal to a rupee. This therefore made 64 x 9 = 576 *mashas* of copper for a rupee. (Just a slight increase of 6 *mashas* that must have been compensated for by the price of copper). It has also been stated in several documents that 64 pice went to a rupee. In short the new pice of-9 *mashas* that started around 1824 stabilised in the market at 64 to a rupee. It continued for a long time upto the closure of the mint in 1854 as is evidenced by the extremely large number of 9 *masha* coins found today in comparison with coins of the other weights. Some of these coins depict strange signs like a Persian *alif* to the right of *Na* of Nagpur, or a *hamza* over the *ba* of *badshah*, or two dots over the *daal* of *badshah*. These may well be simply ornamental and should not be confused with the legend.

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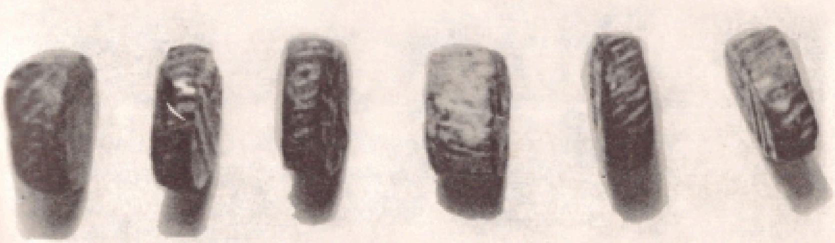
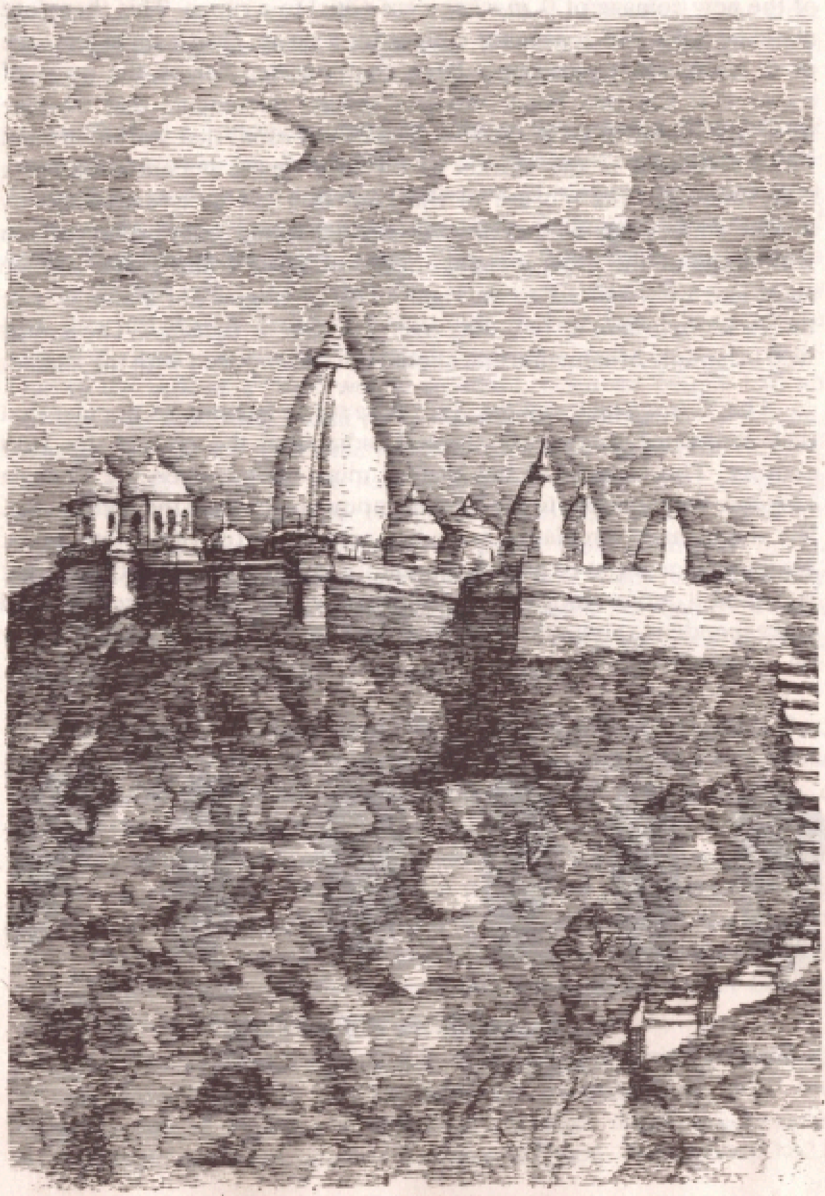
[40] James Prinsep, *Useful Tables*, p.68, No. 106b.

[41] *Op. cit.*, Appendix 6.

The *Trisooli* pice and the *Zariputka* rupee became so popular that they circulated throughout Central India until the end of the 19th century. The coinage of the Nagpur mint ceased when the Bhonsla kingdom was annexed to the British empire in 1854 and the mint closed. But the coins in circulation were not withdrawn for fifty more years. Nagpur rupee enjoyed such a popularity in the region that the market accepted it more readily than the British coins. Detailed reports and correspondence about this aspect are cited and discussed in the chapter on counterfeit coins.



Milling on the Copper Coins



The Rama temple at Ramtek

RAMTEK

21° 24'N; 79° 20'E

Ramtek was an important Bhonsla town. Famous for the temple of Ramachandra, it is a holy place for the Hindus. During the ancient times, it was called as Ramagiri - the mountain of God Rama. Supposedly founded by the Vakataka rulers during the fifth century, it also finds a place in *Meghadootam*, the famous poetical composition of Kalidasa.

Ramtek must have been under the Gond rulers for some period after the fall of Yadava empire. It was annexed to the Bhonsla territories by Raghuji I on the cessassion of the Gond kingdom of Devagadh.

The town lies at the foot of the Ramagiri hill which is surmounted by the ancient temple complex that could be seen from a long distance, shining in the sun owing to its many coats of whitewash. Raghuji I installed the idols of Lord Rama, Sita and Laxmana in these temples. He ordered the temples, nearby ghats to the lake and the staircase from the town to the top of the hill,to be constructed and maintained perpetually.

The town of Ramtek was commercially important. Cloth and utensils came to the town from Mandla and Jabalpur,[42] and a large number of betel leaves were grown and exported.

It came under British control in 1854 after the dissolution of the Bhonsla kingdom.

COINAGE

A coin called as *Ramteki,* made of copper, was struck at Ramtek. Old people of the town say that a paisa called *Padookashahi* was common in that area. It is very likely that coin Type 67 bearing the *Padooka* or the sandle of Lord Rama was struck there. We know not much about the mint of Ramtek except for the fact that copper coins were struck there in large quantities.

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[42] *The Imperial Gazetteer of India,* Vol. XXI, p. 195.

SAGAR

23° 51' N; 78°, 45' E

Sagar of Saugor is an important place in Bundelkhand. It was taken from Chhatrasal, the Bundela king, by Bajirao Peshwa in 1729. In 1733, Govind Ballal Kher alias Govindpant Bundele was made the *subedar* of Bundlekhand. He along with his son Balaji Govind Kher developed the territory to a great extent. Maratha rule in Sagar continued uninterrupted till 1818 when the area was taken over by the British.

In 1800, Vinayakrao Chandorkar, the *subedar* of Sagar, gave part of his territory to Raghuji II for the help he rendered in checking the incursion of Amir Khan Pathan, the *sardar* of Holkar. The Bhonsla kingdom was thus extended upto the borders of Sagar. But the Bhonslas never attacked Sagar as it belonged to the Peshwa.

COINAGE

Rupees of Shah Alam II bearing the mint name, *Ravishnagar Sagar*, are dated with regnal years 25 to 55. All of them fall under the Peshwa rule except those of the RY 55 which were continued during the British rule after 1818. A letter from Captain Presgrave to Mr Wilder says that the old Sagar mint continued in operation during 1825 for the coinage of *Balashaey* rupees.[43] In the beginning, the old mint was situated in the Fort. British mint-master, Presgrave, constructed a new building in 1820 where the Farrukhabad rupees were coined. This building is now used as the Tahsil office of Sagar.

We have included the Sagar mint in the Bhonsla coinage only on the basis of the report of the Mint Committee of 31st October 1826 and the resolution of the Government dated 21st December 1826. Both of these records are given in full in the appendix[44]. According to the contemporary record,the Government had authorised the Sagar mint to coin Nagpur rupees of a regulated standard of 157.5 grains containing 144.375 grains of pure silver and having an expanded flan and milling on the edge.

No such coins have yet come to light. Nor is it known whether the resolutions and orders were ever implemented.

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43. *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Letter of Assay Master D. Prisgrave dated 20th August 1825.

44. Appendix 7, *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Mint Committee Report dated 31st October 1826.

SOHAGPUR

22° 42' N; 78°18' E

Sohagpur is a very small town in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. It has an old fort. It seems the place was taken over by Raghuji I from the Nawab of Bhopal around 1800. It was of not much importance, but served as a military base for the Bhonslas. The fort was handed over to the British in 1818.

COINAGE

Dr Gordon reported about the Sohagpur mint, "The mint at Sohagpoor was established by Seedeeck alee Khan in 1227 fussilee. Seedeeck alee stated that about 13 lack of rupees were ordered and that they coined only 8.5 lack of these. But it is believed that this statement is far from being true as to the quantity of rupees. (This, however, scarcely deserved the name of a mint as little or no bullion was melted. On about nine lack of Adoni rupees, Nagpore stamp was imposed and they were distributed to the troops as Nagpore rupees)."[45]

James Prinsep[46] mentions that the Sohagpur rupee circulated in the southern part of the *Narbadda* territories, and it had 81.7% pure silver. In another unpublished manuscript of Prinsep, he has given a sketch of the Sohagpur rupee. A copy of this is with Mr Kenneth Wiggins of England who has kindly sent rubbings of a similar coin. These are illustrated under Type 39. This sketch of Prinsep should be taken with a pinch of salt. It looks very much like a rupee of Muhammadabad Banaras, and it is doubtful whether Prinsep has given a correct sketch. In the same manuscript he has again given a sketch of the Chanda rupee with the heading 'Sohagpur'. But the same Chanda rupee is wrongly attributed to the Hinganghat mint in his *Useful Tables*.

It is mentioned by Prinsep that the Sohagpur mint started working in 1810 and was closed in 1818. From Gordon's report, however, it appears that the mint worked only for a year or two before being closed at the beginning of 1818. Thus, there is much confusion as regards the period and coins of the Sohagpur mint. At present, the available sketch of the Muhammadabad Banaras rupee is tentatively attributed to 1817-18, i.e., Appa Saheb's reign.

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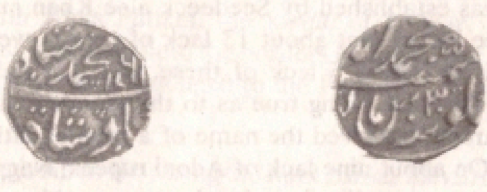
[45] Appendix 1, *Bundle Correspondence Records*, Answer to Question No. 1.

[46] James Prinsep, *Useful Tables*, pp. 29 and 59.

A rupee of Muhammad Shah dated 1161/30 of the Muhammadabad Banaras mint shows great similarity with the Chanda rupee. The style of the legend on the obverse of this coin is similar to that of the Surat rupees coined in the name of Muhammad Shah at Chanda. Even the two dots over *he* of *badshah* are present on this specimen. Though this similarity is not sufficient evidence to attribute this coin to Sohagpur mint, the specimen is illustrated for the convenience of future scholars.



Muhammad Shah's rupee of Banaras mint

From the letter of Resident Jenkins to Mr Molony at Sohagpur, it appears that coins of Sohagpur were recoined into Nagpur rupees. As these coins contained more impurity than the Nagpur rupees, it was felt desirable to withdraw them from circulation. Mr Jenkins wrote thus - "I find that there are two kinds of Sohagpore rupees called the large and the small but the difference in value must be trifling as the former can be recoined at the rate of 100 to 94 and the other of 100 to 93 Nagpore rupees --- it would be advisable that you should send to Nagpore whatever quantity of it in your possession, where it can be recoined into Nagpore rupees."[47]

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47. *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Currency Department, File No. 16 of 1819, Letter of Resident R. Jenkins dated 6th July 1819.

UNCERTAIN MINTS

From the contemporary references and British correspondence it appears that there were a large number of mints situated in the Bhonsla territory, especially Berar and parts of Chhattisgadh. These mints worked intermittently depending upon the demand of the market, availability of the metal and, of course, also depending upon the extent of political interference. There was less control over copper mints than those on the silver. The margin of profit was more flexible in the former. This led to many of them being opened by private people at different places. Not very much can be said about such mints of copper coins unless we get conclusive evidence regarding their exact locations and period of operation. But the large number of unattributed coins that are found in and around Nagpur certainly show that a sizeable number of mints must have been in operation.

Such coins are described in the *Catalogue* in three groups :

1. Silver coins of Janoji and Raghuji II under Types 15 and 35.
2. Copper coins of Raghuji II under Type 46.
3. All such copper coins which can neither be attributed to any mint nor to any king, are described in a separate section on unattributed copper coins.

The coins described under Types 15 and 35 belong to a different series of Cuttack rupees of Ahmad Shah. They are generally found alongwith the Nagpur rupees from areas eastwards of Nagpur. Some of these coins depict a tiny flag and the regnal year above the word *sanah,* whereas some bear a full Hijri year at the same place written in reverse from right to left, or, if written correctly, the numerals are sometimes distributed above and below the word *sanah.*

These coins are in many cases heavier than the 86 *ruttee* coins of Raghuji I. After weighing a large number of coins, no coin of Raghuji I of Nagpur mint is found weighing more than 11.18 g. But some of these coins scale as much as 11.4 g. This weight standard does not even fit into the 85 and 83 *ruttee* (11.05 and 10.79 g) standards of Janoji and Raghuji II respectively, towards whose periods the dates on these coins point (AH 1177 to 1188). The style of the legend on the coins is also somewhat different from that on the Cuttack rupees of Nagpur. It is therefore almost certain that they were not struck at Nagpur.

These coins also differ from the original Cuttack rupees and it is very unlikely that the Cuttack mint which was striking coins in the name of Shah Alam II during AH 1177-1188, would have been striking those in the name of Ahmad Shah at the same time. It therefore appears that these coins were struck by some mint or mints in the Bhonsla territory which are unknown to us.

The copper coins described under Type 46 are always found along with Raghuji III's coins of Nagpur mint. Since these coins have an unread legend, they are tentatively illustrated under those of the Nagpur mint. This would also facilitate comparison of the two.

All the remaining unattributed copper coins are listed at the end from Type 63 onwards. For the convenience of readers, they are divided into four categories according to their appearance;

1. Those bearing various symbols and illegible Persian legend,
2. Those bearing only illegible Persion legend,
3. Those bearing a legible Persian legend, and
4. Those bearing a legible Nagari legend.

From the contemporary British correspondence a list of coin names circulating in Berar can be deduced as follows :

Name	Area of Manufacture/ruler	Weight in *mashas*	Number to Annas
Alasapuri	Ellichpur (Mughal)	21	2
Washimche	Vashim	21	2
Ramteki	Ramtek	21	2
Zariputka	Nagpur	9	4 (64 to 68 to a rupee)
Trisoori	Nagpur	15½	2 (32 to a rupee)
Tirsooli	Nagpur	9	4 (64 to 68 to a rupee)
Bagumburi or *Waghambari*	Ellichpur (Nawab Namdar Khan)	11½	4
Omraootty (Do-Dandie)	Amravati	20	2
Muddoo Shahee	Lucknow	21	2

Paroiie	Parola (Khandesh)	21	2
Gondpoorie	Uncertain	21	2
Loharoo	Loharoo (Punjab)	20	2
Jamodie	Jamod	20	2
Old Ellichpuri	East Berar	20	2
New Ellichpuri	East Berar	18	2
Indorie	Indore	18	2
Patorie	Patur (West Berar)	18	2
Maheysoorie	Mysore	$19^{1}/_{2}$	2
Borodie	Baroda	$18^{1}/_{2}$	2
Hingley	Hingli	18	2
Jharshahie	Jaipur	18	2
Boorhanpoorie	Burhanpur (of Sindhias)	$15^{1}/_{2}$	2
Shumsherie	The Nizam of Hyderabad	15	$2^{1}/_{2}$
Sewarai	Shivaji and the Peshwas	15	2
Government $^{1}/_{2}$ anna	British India	13	2
Government $^{1}/_{4}$ anna	British India	$6^{1}/_{2}$	4

It is certain that some of the coins mentioned in the above list must have been struck under the control of the Bhonslas. It is also likely that some of the specimens described in the section on unattributed coins were struck at places mentioned in the above list. Washim and Patur could be Bhonsla mints, but we do not know whether they started only under the post-Bhonsla period, i.e., of the Nizam of Hyderabad, or whether they worked under the Bhonslas also.

The coins like *Ramteki, Zariputka, Trisoori or Tirsooli, Do-dandie and Jamodie* are, of course, Bhonsla coins and are discussed under their respective sections of Mint Towns, whereas the*Loharoo*or new pice is considered in the chapter on Counterfeit Coins.

With more evidence to come in future, it is hoped that the unattributed copper coins would be linked with the place of manufacture.

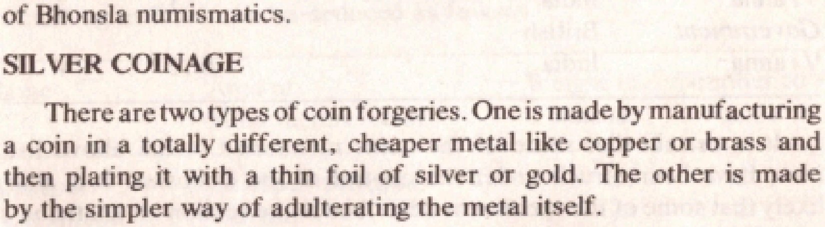
4. Counterfeit Coins

The business of counterfeiting coins was prevalent during practically all periods of Indian history. The Bhonsla territory was no exception to it. On the contrary, the great popularity of the Bhonsla coins gave rise to a large number of counterfeits. This was a headache to the British administrators. They adopted several measures to put a stop to it. Some relevant and interesting correspondence between the British officers cited in this chapter throws light on this aspect of Bhonsla numismatics.

SILVER COINAGE

There are two types of coin forgeries. One is made by manufacturing a coin in a totally different, cheaper metal like copper or brass and then plating it with a thin foil of silver or gold. The other is made by the simpler way of adulterating the metal itself.

The first type is rarely met with in the Bhonsla coinage. Only one specimen each of the Nagpur and Chanda rupees have been found till now which show some traces of silver foil over the copper. They are illustrated below.



Nagpur *Chanda*

Counterfeit rupee coins struck in copper

The second type seems to have been manufactured in great quantities after 1854, that is, after the closure of the mint. The *Zariputka* rupees had wide circulation in Central India. On the closure of the mint in 1854, an acute shortage of these coins was experienced in the markets. The price of the *Zariputka* rupees began to increase. At first, 120 *Zariputka* rupees were valued at 100 Company rupees. But, as the demand for the former increased, they were purchased for even one to one Company rupee.

On 5th April 1855, Captain E. K. Elloit, the Officiating Commissioner of Nagpur, wrote to Mr J. K. Spence, "the Mahajans have increased the rates of Nagpore rupee to 112 to Company's 100 from 117, and are hoarding them. For this evil there is no remedy but to collect the Nagpore rupees in a great number and melt them down."[1]

The minutes by Muir Esq., Offg. Senior Member of the Sudder Board of Revenue, dated 14th April 1857 mention, "....From the stoppage of the Nagpoor mint the supply has become limited and the rupeesarerising in value in proportion to demand... They have already reached a ficititious value of nearly 100 percent when intrinsic worth is only about 80 to 85 Company rupees."[2]

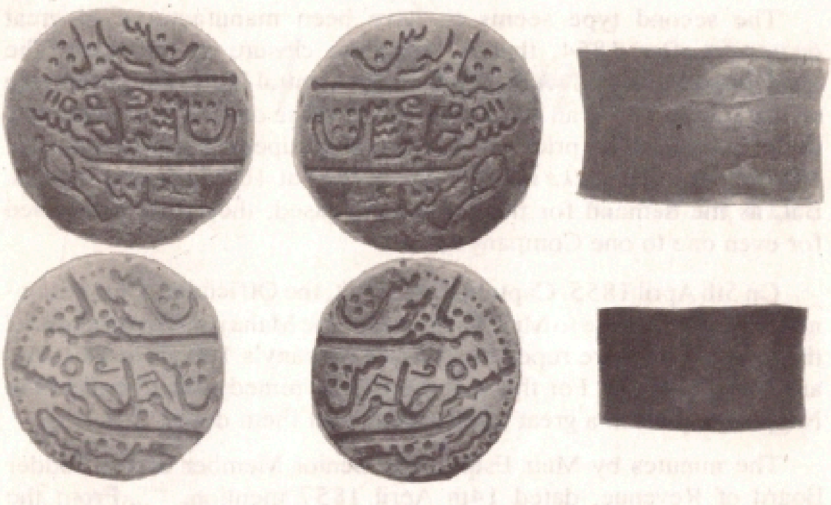
This rise in the value of Nagpur coinage was experienced throughout India. In his letter to the Secretary to the Government, Mr A. Vansitart, the Offg. Accountant to the N. W. Provinces wrote that the value of the Nagpur rupee had suddenly risen from 24 percent discount to about 12 percent discount and that it even went one to one with the Company rupee at Calcutta.[3]

Thus the Nagpur rupee was worth much more than its intrinsic value. This was a great opportunity to the counterfeiters. Before the closure of the mint, a forged coin of the same purity as the original did not yield much profit. But the unusual rise in the value of the Nagpur rupees after the closure of the mint attracted a profit of 20 to 25% on manufacturing an exactly similar rupee. A great number of such forgeries were made. But it is very difficult to detect them even now as they contained the standard 86.75% pure metal and were made from exactly similar dies. Two such dies have come to light, both are of the reverse side. The heavier weighs around 116 g, whereas the lighter around 74.

[1] *Berar Records*, Revenue Department, Case File of 1855.

[2] *Ibid.*, Case File of 1857.

[3] *Ibid.*, Circular No. 18 of 1855.



Dies of the Counterfeit Zariputka rupees

The first die is quite faithful to its original. The only defect is in the writing of *seen* of *manus* and that of *julus*. It is of a considerably inferior execution than the original and, moreover, two out of the four dots are absent in the upper *seen*.

The second die is at once detectable as forger's equipment. It has partly beaded border. An original die should always show full details nothing of which can fall outside the flan as it does on a coin. The incomplete beaded border tells us that the forger had cut the die looking at a coin that was in front of him.

It is quite understandable that the forgers must have also adulterated the coins in many cases. This created problems at the treasuries where coins were received. Captain A. Chesney, the Deputy Commissioner of Bhandara, wrote on 21st November 1855 to the Commissioner of Nagpur, "The Potdars possess, in a remarkable degree, the power of testing the various coins of native states being almost invariably able to detect the presence of any base coin at the first sight and to tell the exact value and coinage of every piece of metal which is subjected to them to test. ---- I therefore solicit your sanction to the addition of 6 Potdars to the mofussil establishments already granted, at a pay of rupees 4 each."[4]

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[4] *Berar Records*, Revenue Department, Case File of 1855.

There is another interesting report giving the whole picture in a nutshell. It is summerised hereunder[5] :

"4th April 1857, Minutes by E.A. Reade, Esq. Senior Member Sudder Board of Revenue N.W.P., regarding the valuation of Nagpore Rupees.

Extract

In 1856 the Government approved 118 as a fair average rate of conversion when the variation of exchange between Nagpore and Company's rupees ranged from 112 to 124 Nagpore rupees for 100 Company's rupees.

However, after the cessation of the Nagpore mint the rates have been considerably altered. The table shows different rates for receipts at different treasuries.

For 100 Company's rupees - Nagpore Rupees

DISTRICT	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM
Baitool	115	101.8
Jubbulpore	117	101.8
Hoshangabad	115.12	107.8
Seonee	116	104
Nursingpoor	117.8	110
Mundla	120	105
Average	116.14	104.14.8
General Average	110.14.4	

Captain Punkney shows if the tenantry had to pay 118 rupees for 100 of Company's they will be ruined as they receive only 104 to 105 for 100 Company's when they sell off the grain. Therefore, they should be allowed either to pay in Company's rupees or at the intrinsic value.

The Accountant in his letter dated 19th February (No.2209) says that there are about 200 sorts of Nagpore Rupees. This is even more perplexing. However, the Secretary to the Government mentions that there are 10 different sorts and they are received at their assay value at the treasuries. It would be more appropriate to receive the 10 different varieties at different rates instead of receiving them at an average as suggested by the Accountant."

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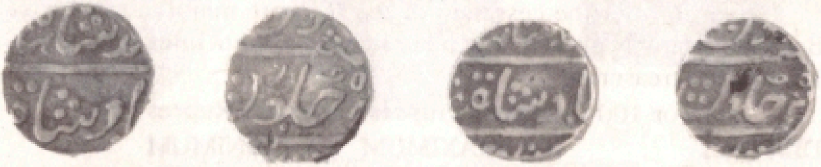
[5] *Ibid.*, Case File of 1857.

The list of 10 different varieties and their corresponding values was circulated at all the treasuries. One such list is given in the Appendix regarding the Nagpur mint. The coins were therefore valued at the treasuries according to the marks they depicted. Realising this fact, people indulged in further mischief to defraud the Government. They tried to deface the marks so that the exact value of the coin could not be determined from the face of it. This, of course, does not come under the category of counterfeits, but it is included in this chapter as it is certainly another way to earn illicit profits. The illustrations clearly show the defacement in the middle of the word *julus*.



Rupees of Nagpur, the marks of which have been defaced

The British officials become so irritated by all these mischievous activities that ultimately Mr B. Thornhill Esq., the Secretary to the Government of India, issued instructions in May 1857 that Nagpur rupees should be accepted at the treasuries at bullion value and not at the inflated rate.[6]

The counterfeiting was slowly checked, though not completely until the circulation of the Nagpur rupee had completely stopped.

COPPER COINAGE

During the Bhonsla period, copper coins were not counterfeited as there was a little or no profit in doing so. Coins of heavier weights were, however, cut down and circulated as ordinary coins. The persons doing this profited from the scrap chipped from the coins.

After the closure of the mint in 1854, however, the coins were counterfeited in great number. During the 1860s, the demand for local copper coins was much greater than that for the British copper coins as the former were heavier in weight. Around 1869, it was discovered that several individuals had been engaged in the business of manufacturing copies of extinct native states' coins. These counterfeits circulated easily in the market as the illiterate people preferred them to the light-weight British copper currency.

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[6] *Berar Records*, Finance Department, Case File of 1875.

Wiggins brought to light several letters from different British officers discussing the problem of eradicating this evil, which was restricting the circulation of Government coinage to a great extent.[7] There was a European named Mr Foley at Kanpur who manufactured all sorts of copper coins of Awadh state. Several other coins, namely, the *Trisooli* pice of Nagpur, *Bala Shahi* of Jalaun and other sorts of Lucknow coinage were manufactured at places like Mow Raneepore, Tori Futtehpore, Buncoree Orcha, Sussair Allypore and Kurrara Gurowlee. Lt Col Hyde, the mint-master of the Calcutta mint, desired in his report of January 1869 to Secretary to the Government, "If law permits, these coiners be at once rigorously prosecuted."[8]

The Officiating Inspector-General of Police, Hyderabad Acquired Districts, reported another case of counterfeiting. He mentioned in his report that the Nawab of Loharoo (in Punjab - 28° 16' N, 75 45' E) authorised people to coin money. The village of Shirrore and Soorujgull had as many as 52 mints in 1850. By 1868, most of them had been stopped, but a person named Premsukhdas coined *Trisooli* and *Do-dundee* paisas at Loharoo and sent them regularly to the markets, where shops had been established for the purpose, at Furruckabad, Mirzapore, Benaras, Bombay, Muthura, Agra, Calcutta, Patna, Mungee, Gazipore and Amritsur.[9]

The Commissioner of East Berar gave more details of the cases in his letter of 1st October 1870 to the First Asstt Resident of Hyderabad Acquired Districts. He said: "The question is whether the lumps of metal passing in the market are really spurious coins. The penal code defines coin as - Coin is a metal used as money, stamped and issued by the authority of British Government in order to be so used. It is evident that the stamp contemplated is that particular design impressed by a Government on its own coin.

These lumps have a mark like , the mark of old trisooli pice of the late Nagpore Government. Thus these are just lumps of copper exchangeable at their value for other goods. In bazars these dubs pass 76 for a rupee, or rupee's worth of goods. These dubs are square pieces of pure copper, quarter inch thick and 3/4 of an inch wide. There is no doubt that this business results in considerable profits but

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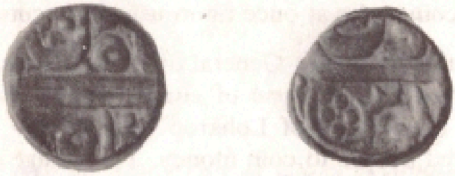
7. K.W.Wiggins, *JNSI*, Vol.XL.,1978, pp. 53-78.

8. *Departmental Proceedings*, Mint and Currency, Letter No. 616 dated 11 January 1869.

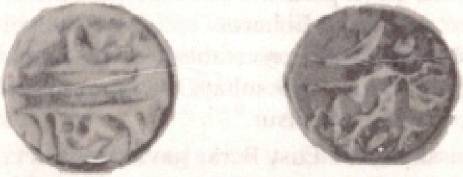
9. *Berar Records*, Letter of C.T. Love dated 12 July 1870.

I don't see how we can step in to prevent this.... It is just an exchange of goods, if 76 to 80 dubs of copper are valid for a rupee worth of wheat."[10]

From these letters we know that the *Do-dundi* and the *Trisooli* pice were counterfeited at Loharoo in the Punjab. The *Do-dundi* coins of Amravati mint were counterfeited in such a great number and brought into Amravati that today we come across more counterfeits than original coins. The forgeries are presumably cruder than the originals, as can be seen from the illustrations.

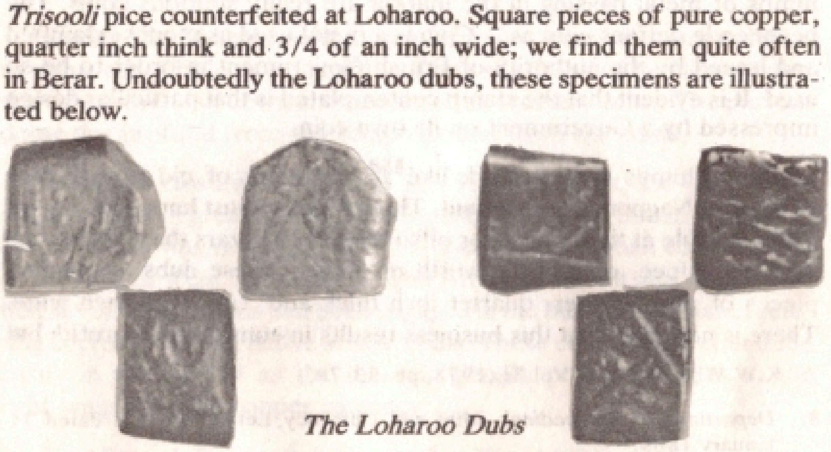


Original Amravati Coin



Probable forgery made at Loharoo

The Commissioner of East Berar has given a clear description of *Trisooli* pice counterfeited at Loharoo. Square pieces of pure copper, quarter inch think and 3/4 of an inch wide; we find them quite often in Berar. Undoubtedly the Loharoo dubs, these specimens are illustrated below.



The Loharoo Dubs

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10. *Berar Records,* Financial Department, Case File of 1870.

The counterfeiters Premsukhdas and Raghunathdas were arressted and the case was taken to court. The judgement however, went against the Government, as follows.[11]

"THE CHIEF COURT OF PUNJAB

Criminal case No. 500 of 1870

Present,

C. R. Lindsay Esquire
H. S. Cunningham Esquire
Judges
Premsukhdass and Raghunathdass
accused appellants
vs
The Crown - Prosecutor Respondent

The first point to be proved was whether the coin was in fact counterfeit.

All the evidence is aginst this view of the matter. The coining was openly conducted for many years and the coins do not purport to resemble anything but what they are.

Whether the Nowab was or was not authorised to coin is immaterial so far as this charge is concerned, the only question is, whether he in coining intended to produce a resemblance of any coin to be used for the purpose of deception, and this does not appear to be the case.

The conviction must be quashed,the fines returned and the copper must be returned.

C. R. Lindsay

19th December 1870

H. S. Cunningham

This judgement governs appeals Nos. 500 and 491."

The Government realised that the practice could not be checked under the then Penal Code Sections 230, 17 and 15. It was ultimately resolved by the Governor-General in the Council on the 8th February 1872 that the flow in the Penal Code be amended so that penalties may attach to unauthorised manufacture of any coin.

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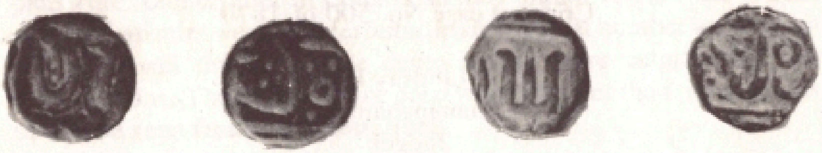
[11] *Berar Records*, Judicial Department, Case File of 1870

There is another *Trisooli* coin found in Berar which has a retrograde legend on both sides. Two such specimens have been published by Siddiqui.[12] He misread the retrograde legend as Ellichpur and attributed these coins to its Nawab. The coins illustrated here clearly show that they are retrograde copies of the Nagpur paisa.



Retrograde Nagpur Coins

It seems that the dies of these coins were made by a novice die-cutter without realising that if the dies were cut in postive, they would give a negative impression on the coins. Had these coins been struck at the royal mint, they would have been found in extremely small number. But they are found quite often and, that too, in many die-varieties. It thus appears that they are counterfeit coins struck either in the Bhonsla territory or in the United Provinces by Mr Foley of Kanpur,[13] or by some other counterfeiters of Tori Futtehpore, Sursair Allypore, Buncoree Orcha and Kurrara Gurowlee as mentioned in various items of British correspondence.[14]

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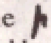
[12] A.H. Siddiqui, *ND*, Vol.I, II, p. 48.

[13] Letter from Mr J.W. Halsey to the mint-master at Calcutta, *Financial Proceedings* (Government of India), 5th January 1869.

[14] Resolution No. 912 dated 8th February 1872, by the Government of India, Financial Department.

5. Mint-masters and Their Marks

MINT-MASTERS OF THE CHANDA MINT

The mint of Chanda was located in the centre of the town in the *Kotwāli* area. The old mint building or *Ṭāksāl* has now been converted into a Mosque according to one Hazrat Azizmiya Tanksale who claims to be one of the descendants of the mint-masters of Chanda. What Azizmiya tells is absolutely correct. His name Tanksale itself indicates that he has something to do with the mint. In addition to this he possesses a pair of coin dies of the Chanda rupee. These are illustrated in Chapter 3. According to him, the *Ṭākšal* was under the control of Hayatmiya Tanksale around 1800. Thus, Hayatmiya seems to have struck coins during the reigns of Raghuji II and his successors. It was presumably he who introduced the  *(Ankuś)* mark on the Chanda rupees. Hayatmiya was followed by his son Dadamiya. It is not certain whether Dadamiya coined any money. He might have worked during the last period of the mint before 1820. Azizmiya belongs to the seventh generation of Hayatmiya. The mint-masters were very rich and had their own *Kabarasthān* (cemetery) outside the town. This monument still stands in good condition. In the illustration, Azizmiya is seen standing in front of the cemetery where Hayatmiya lies buried.

MINT-MASTERS OF THE JABALPUR MINT

Prinsep, in his *Useful Tables,* says that the coins of Jabalpur mint were made by Nana Ghatka (Ghatge).[1] These coins depict a Persian

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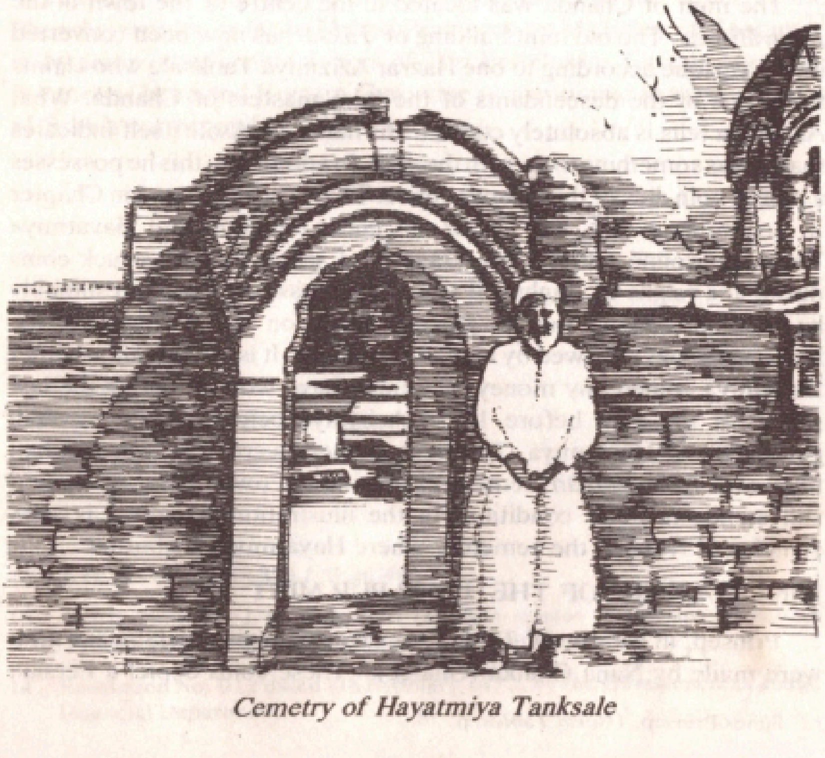
[1] James Prinsep, *Useful Tables*, p. 29.



Cemetery of Hayatmiya Tanksale

noon to the extreme right of the regnal year. It seems this was put there by Nana Ghatge to denote himself (Coin Types 20 - 22).

The historical background of Nana Ghatge's tenure of office is as follows :

By 1799, Mir Khan Pendhari, the *sardar* of Holkar, had grown too strong. To check his activities, Raghuji II sent his able *sardars* namely, Raghunathrao Baji Ghatge, Vitthal Ballal Subedar, Bani Singh Jamadar and Muhammad Amin Khan. Mir Khan was defeated and driven away. Raghunathrao Baji Ghatge was made the *subedar* of Jabalpur due to the valour displayed by him in the mission.

He was followed by Nana Ghatge. The Ghatge family served at Jabalpur and Hoshangabad. Jijaba, Jayram, Narayan and Nana Ghatge, all were able warriors. Some of them came back to Nagpur and resided there after 1817 when Jabalpur was taken over by the British.

MINT-MASTERS OF THE NAGPUR MINT

Nothing is known about the mint-masters of Nagpur mint prior to 1800. Thereafter, Jaswantrao, Munbhutt and Mulla Huneef struck coins for some time. The exact tenures of these three mint-masters cannot be ascertained. It is, however, known that they were in charge of the mint at different periods during 1808-1814. Numismatic details in the following paragraphs are mostly derived from Dr Gordon's Report[2] and Mr Lushington's letter of 1856[3].

JASWANTRAO RAMCHANDRA

Jaswantrao or Yashwantrao Ramchandra was *vakeel* to the Bhonsla kingdom during Raghuji II's time. His father Ramchandra Dado worked with the Nawab of Ellichpur and sometimes went to the Nizam as a *vakeel* on behalf of the Bhonslas. Jaswantrao continued the profession of his father. He was mediator in the Treaty of Devagaon with the British in 1803. For some time during 1808-14, he was given the charge of the mint. He put a *chowfuli* mark, i.e., a plus symbol +, on his coins. His coins were therefore known as *Juswantrashahi* or *Chowfoolia* (Coin Type 30).

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[2] Appendix 8, *Bundle Correspondence Records*, Assays of Nagpoor Coinage Commencing 6th July 1823.

[3] Appendix 6, *Bundle Correspondence Records*, Finance Department, Case File of 1856, Letter No. 3370.

He received a pension of Rs 15,000 yearly from the British on account of the treaty of Devagaon. He was later on given a house at Banaras where he spent his last days.[4]

MANBHUTT UPADHYE ALIAS JOSHI

Manbhutt was a minister of Raghuji II. He was put in charge of the mint for a short period. It seems Manbhutt either did not do his work carefully, or knowingly adulterated the coins. His coins contain much less pure silver than the desired 72 *ruttees.* He put a mark ♈ on his coins. This is a representation of *Padooka*-wooden sandal of God (Coin Type 31). His coins were therefore known as *Munbhuttshahi*, or *Padookashaee.*

After Raghuji II's death, Manbhutt was regarded as an important man in Appa Saheb's government. During the final Bhonsla-British battle at Sitabuldi, Manbhutt threw himself into the fight along with his Arab army. The Arabs, however, deserted him as the British gave them a fat bribe. Manbhutt was put into prison by the British officers He ultimately died as a prisoner.

MULLA HUNEEF

Mulla Huneef or Molu Huneef was in charge of the mint some time between 1808 and 1814. Not much is known about him except that his coins were called *Mulla Pouree, Poureedar* or *Raitopka Teenboondia* (Coin Type 32). The mark on his coin has three dots hence it was called *Teenboondia (Teen* - three, *boondi* - dot). The meaning of the words *Poureedar* and *Raitopka* is obscure. *Raitopka* might mean *Rāī* (mustard) on the tip, i.e., having dots on the tip. This also looked like the *torra* ornament on the head-dress, and hence was called *Kullungidar.*

ANGNOOLALA

For the first time during Bhonsla rule, a private person was given contract of the mint when Angnoolala obtained it in the middle of 1815. He, however, did not adulterate the coins like his predecessor, Manbhutt. As a consequence, he suffered a loss.

Dr Gordon tells us, "Angnoolala agreed to pay 31,000 rupees for the mint,but from this sum, the expenses of the mint were to be deducted and the Rajah advanced him 20,000 rupees to commence with. When Raghojee died, 3 or 4 months afterwards, Nagoo Pant, Appa Sahib's Minister insisted on the repayment of the above 20,000 rupees in

[4] *Nagpur Residency Records*, Vol. XXV, No. 74 and Vol. XXVIII, No. 234

consequence of which Angnoolala was only able to pay 10,500 rupees on account of his contract for the year exclusive of expenses of the mint. Expenses amounted 6,500 rupees."[5]

Angnoolala put a mark of ∷ on his rupees. Because of these pairs of dots, his coin was called *Doboondia* (double dots). The more correct designation would have been *Chowboondia* (four dots), but it was not used. Sometimes, his coins were also called *Ungnooshahi.* These coins fall under the reigns of Raghuji II as well as Parsoji II (Coin Type 33).

SHIVARAM

Shivaram was a goldsmith by profession. His first name is given as Seetul. He worked under Angnoolala during the latter's contract for coining rupees. Due to his influence with Manbhutt he was awarded the contract in Fussilee 1227 or AD 1817. He paid 24,000 rupees towards the contract after deducting the mint expenses of about 9,000 rupees. After Appa Saheb was arrested, Shivaram's contract was continued for a few months. Thus, his coins fall under the reigns of Appa Saheb as well as Raghuji III.

A mark of ँ *Chandke undar boondkee,* i.e., a dot in the moon was put on his coins (Coin Type 40). His coins were known as *Naldar,* i.e., having the mark of a horse-shoe. Shivaram adulterated the coins to a great extent. His coins, sometimes, contain as much as 20% impurity. Having earned huge profits, Shivaram again tried for the contract in the subsequent year. The contract was, however, given to Ramjee Tanteea. Shivaram offered a huge sum of 35,000 rupees for the year's contract. He was therefore made a sub-contractor under the immediate charge of Ramjee Tanteea. It seems Shivaram also paid some money to Ramjee Tanteea towards the share of profits. This was in 1818-19.

Shivaram entered into the same sub-contractual arrangement in 1819-20, this time with Nursinghrao Ballal. During the three years of his contract, he regularly adulterated the coins, thereby earning huge profits, This was ultimately discovered and he was arrested in 1820 by Dr Gordon. Shivaram had cleverly transferred his property to secret places. He pleaded inability to pay the dues. Narain Pandit, who had pledged himself for the good conduct of Shivaram, made an offer to the British officers to the effect that he would make good the loss if all culprits were handed over to him. The British Government agreed to this, and Shivaram and Nursinghrao Ballal were handed over to Narain Pandit.

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[5] Appendix 5, *Bundle Correspondence Records.*

It seems that Narain Pandit was also involved in the fraud. The adulteration was so high that it could not have escaped the eyes of local *sarrafs*, but none of them ever complained, or came forward when it was announced that Narain Pandit would rectify all such adulterated coins which anybody possessed. In short, this practice was known to all those connected with the business of money and coinage. Narain Pandit made good the loss, and the matter was closed. Shivaram, having earned a lot of money, kept quiet after this incident and probably continued his job of a goldsmith.

RAMJEE TANTEEA

Ramjee Tanteea farmed the mint in 1818-19 when he gave the sub-contract to Shivaram as mentioned above.

The mark put on his coins was a *Khalee Chankee*, meaning empty moon . His coins were also known as *Naldar* (Coin Type 50).

He was also given a contract for the rest of the city customs on the recommendation of Narain Pandit, an influential man of those days.

NURSINGHRAO BALLAL

Nursinghrao was earlier the *vakeel* or counsel of Daulatrao Sindhia. In 1819, he put in the highest bid for the city customs and farmed most of them. He gave the sub-contract of the mint to Shivaram for a sum of Rs 35,000. He was supposed to check the purity of the coins from time to time. But he neglected his duty, or purposely did so in league with Shivaram. Adulteration having been detected, guards were placed on his house. The matter, however, was closed on the intervention of Narain Pandit .

Nursinghrao's coin bear a mark of *Chankee Keenaripar boondkee*, i.e., dot on the corner of moon (Coin Type 52). His coins were known as *Nursinghraoshahi* or *Naldar*.

DR I. GORDON

Dr Gordon was a surgeon to the Residency and also had charge of the treasury and household establishments of Raghuji III.

He was put in charge of the mint in 1820 after the adulteration was discovered. Dr Gordon put the mark of the *Zariputka* - a flag of the Bhonslas that had gold woven borders - on his rupees (Coin Types 54-57). In the beginning, he appointed Bacha Ram as his chief assistant. Bacha Ram Raghunath also had the responsibility of keeping an eye on the activities in the palace. Soon after, Captain Pew was appointed to check the assays, and on his transfer to Chhatisgadh, Dr Wylie took over.

Dr Gordon administered the mint most efficiently. He maintained the purity of the rupees to the standard 72/83 *ruttees.* In 1825 he added the mark of *e* on the *Zariputka* (Coin Types 58-61). This mark was called as *Zariputka bootta. Bootta* is a design woven in gold and silver on cloth. The rupee was consequently known as *Zariputka boota,* but the common people made no distinction between the two types, both were therefore generally referred to as the *Zariputka* rupees.

Dr Gordon took keen interest in his job. His reports on the copper coins, assays of the silver coins and his Answers to the Questions asked by the mint executive, are all of great importance to us. These records are cited in the Appendix. Dr Gordon provided precise details about everything regarding the coinage. He also reformed the copper coins. In the beginning, he increased them to 14 *mashas,* then to 16, and by 1825, brought them down to 9 *mashas.* The *Zariputka* rupees and the *Trishooli* pice of Dr Gordon became very popular in the market. They circulated even after the dissolution of the Bhonsla kingdom for a long period nearly up to the end of 19th century.

It is not known whether Dr Gordon continued his job in the mint up to 1854. It can, however, be said that his coins were struck without any change up to the closure of the mint in 1854.

CAPTAIN PEW

As mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, Captain Pew was appointed for a very short time during 1820. He put a mark of English letter *P* on some coins (Type 53). These coins were short lived as Captain Pew was transferred to Chhatisgadh region. He worked as an assistant to the Superintendent of Police at a salary of Rs 400 per month.[6]

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[6] *Nagpur Residency Records,* Vol. 42, Letter No. 107.

OTHER PERSONS CONNECTED WITH THE NAGPUR MINT

BHOJBA BELKHORAEEA

Bhojba Belkhoraeea or Belkhoraya was a goldsmith. In 1808, Raghuji II had 800 gold mohurs coined through him (Coin Type 34).

RABRA DESHMUKH

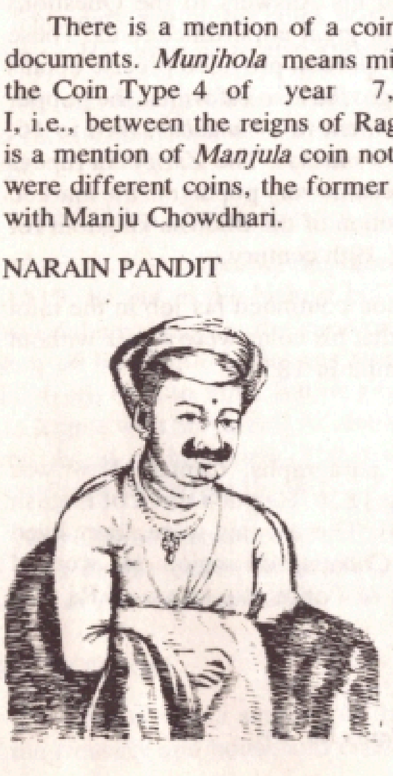
Rabra Deshmukh was in the army of Raghuji II as head of the *Bareedars* alongwith his brother Gambhirji Deshmukh. In 1810, he persuaded Raghuji II to open a mint for copper coins at Nagpur. It is not known whether he was put in charge of the mint or not. But it is certain that he had some influence on the copper coinage of Nagpur.

MANJU CHOWDHARI

Manju Chowdhari was a banker at Cuttack. He had a house in Nagpur and he acted as a middleman in banking transactions at Cuttack and Nagpur.

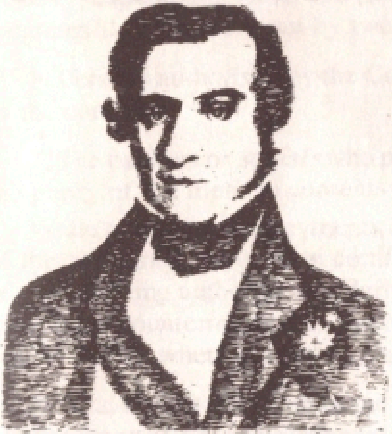
There is a mention of a coin named *Munjhola 7 San* in several documents. *Munjhola* means middle. The coin named *Munjhola* is the Coin Type 4 of year 7, as it was the last coin of Raghuji I, i.e., between the reigns of Raghuji I and Janoji. Sometimes, there is a mention of *Manjula* coin not of *7 san.* If *Manjula* and *Manjhola* were different coins, the former may well have had something to do with Manju Chowdhari.

NARAIN PANDIT



Narain Gopal Pandit was a clerk with Ganesh Gopaldas, a banker at Banaras. He was brought to Nagpur by Raghuji II. During the time of Appa Saheb, he became very influential as he had good contacts with the British. Ramjee Tanteea and Shivaram got the mint contract on his recommendation. As mentioned above Narain Pandit seems to have been involved in the adulteration. But he was able to settle this matter by making good the loss from his own pocket.

RESIDENT R. JENKINS



Sir Richard Jenkins worked as the resident of Nagpur during the early part of the ninteenth century. He took keen interest in developing the Nagpur region. Raghuji III was supposed to have been put under his charge. When the Great Adulteration was discovered in the Nagpur mint, Jenkins prepared a report on it with the help of his subordinates. He also put forth a demand for expansion of the mint and a proposal for machine-struck coinage. The same did not work, probably because Sagar and Farrukhabad mints were producing a good number of coinage.

MINT-MASTERS OF THE SOHAGPUR MINT

The Sohagpur mint was under the control of Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan, a relative of Tipu Sultan of Mysore. He was brought to Nagpur by Raghuji II. Siddiq Ali was a brave warrior. When he was sent against Mir Khan Pendhari around 1810, he crushed the army of the latter and drove him to the north of the Narbada river. Raghuji II, being much pleased with Siddiq Ali Khan, gave him the *subedari* of the Narbada territories and honoured him with official robes and *Śikkā - kaṭār* (Seal and dagger).

Siddiq Ali Khan stayed at Sohagpur for some time and struck coins there. These coins are discussed under Sohagpur mint (Coin Type 39).

During the time of Raghuji III, Siddiq Ali Khan worked as an administrator on behalf of the British.

Note : See page 245 for Table of Mint-masters and their marks.

6. Countermarks

Amongst the Indian coinages, we find three different series depicting the largest number of countermarks :

1. The Punch-marked coins,
2. The coins of the Sultans of Bengal, and
3. The Maratha coins.

It is noteworthy that no other coins of India bear countermarks in such a large variety and numbers. Even the long series of Mughal coins do not show as many countermarks, except during the period of decline when the coins circulated in the Maratha territories.

Bhonsla coins are no exception to this phenomenon. Many of them bear various tiny countermarks consisting of the *lingam* symbol, floral marks and several other designs.

This custom must have its roots in the earliest system of the Punch-marked coinage. According to Gupta and Hardaker, there are separate bankers' marks in addition to the normal punches on the Punch-marked coins which were put by the examiners of the coins who regulated currency as a medium of exchange.[1]

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[1] P. L. Gupta and T. R. Hardaker, *Ancient Indian Silver Punch-Marked Coins of the Magadha-Maurya Karshapana Series*, Nasik, 1985.

It appears that the system of countermarking continued only in the Bengal region wherefrom the Marathas adopted it during their military expeditions. It is absolutely certain that these marks are meaningful. They were put by two categories of persons :

1. Persons authorised by the Government to verify the authenticity of the coinage.

2. The bankers or *saraafs* who put their own marks after confirming the purity of the metallic contents of the coins.

While accepting the payments into the treasuries, the genuineness of the coins might have been certified by impressing the countermark of the checking authority. Similarly, a bagful of assorted coins might have been countermarked to indicate the ownership or to depict the sender's code when a payment was sent.

Several such theories can be put forward but none can be substantiated for want of enough evidence. One theory proposed by a leading coin collector and expert, though more of a legend than fact, is sufficiently interesting to be quoted here :

That Marathas used to plunder vast quantity of booty during their military expeditions and when payments were made to the soldiers, the rupees included all sorts of coins of different rulers. The soldiers might have refused to accept coins that looked strange to them and the head of the military camp might have thereupon put marks of his own to guarantee the value of the currency.

The bankers and bullion merchants would put their marks to facilitate trade and to avoid the need for constant verification of the purity of the metal. It is almost certain that even in those days bags of such coins were traded every day just as the bullion merchants trade Guineas, Krugerands and British rupees nowadays. The authenticating mark and reputation of a good trader might have been necessary for the business.

It is very interesting that we have similar references regarding the examination of genuineness of the coins both for ancient and Bhonsla coins.

Gupta and Hardaker have stated that it is mentioned in the *Artha Shastra* of Kautilya that the treasurer should only receive such money which was declared genuine, and he should cut the bad coins. They also mention that coins with such miniature marks are dated to a period of around 50 years or more prior and 30 years posterior to the period of *Arthashastra*.

Similarly, a letter from Captain Chesneyof the Bhonsla period to the Commissioner of Nagpur of 21st November 1855 says,[2] "The Potdars possess, in a remarkable degree, the power of testing the various coins of native states being almost invariably able to detect the presence of any base coin at the first sight and to tell the exact value and coinage of every piece of metal which is subjected tothem to test.... I, therefore, solicit your sanction to the addition of 6 Potdars to the mofussil estalishments (treasuries - *author*) already granted, at a pay of rupees 4 each." It is again noteworthy that the *Zariputka* coinage, current during this period, depicts a large number of various countermarks. Thus it is likely that they were put by the examining authorities.

Coming to the actual coins, we find that certain groups or hoards of coins, though comprising the issues of various rulers, depict similar marks. For example, a group of some 12 coins was found to bear similar marks. This group consisted of coins of Jahandar Shah, Farrukhsiyar, Shah Alam II, Muhammad Akbar II and those of the Bhonslas.

It is observed that certain marks appear on coins found in a particular area. Coins with a dagger countermark similar to that on the Jabalpur paisas and those with a fish countermark are found only around Jabalpur. Similarly coins with the countermark of a crescent are generally found around Nagpur. Thus, we have two groups of countermarks : one type of marks resembling those found on Bhonsla coins and the other having no connection with the usual Bhonsla marks.

From the hoard evidence it can be concluded that :

i) Countermarks were impressed upon a group of coins at a given time without considering the issuer of the specimens.

ii) Particular marks were used in different areas, most of those were localised.

In the present situation nothing more can be said on this. Scholars, in future, may be able to throw more light on the subject only after examining a number of coin hoards.

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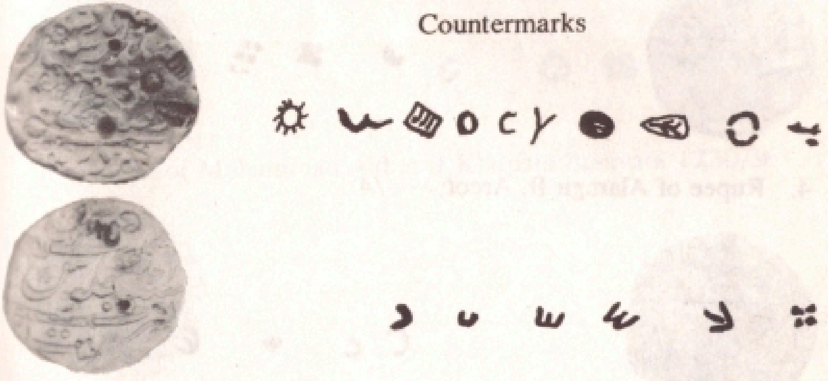
[2] *Berar Records*, Revenue Department, Circular No. 18 of 1855.

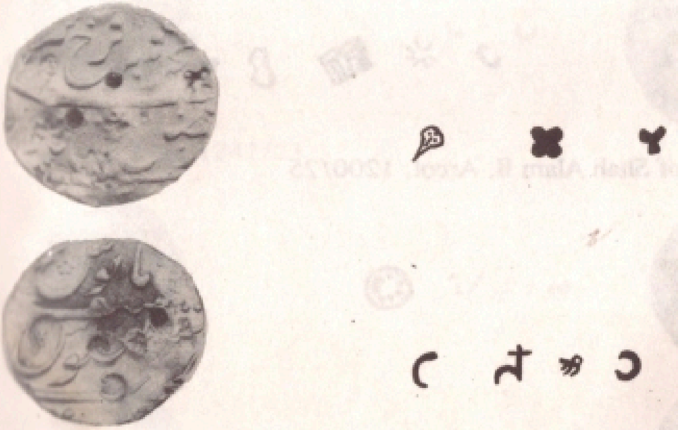
COUNTERMARKS ON DIFFERENT RUPEES BELONGING TO A GROUP OF COINS FOUND ALONGWITH THE NAGPUR RUPEES

Most of these coins share a common countermark - the *padooka* like that on the rupees of Manbhutt and the 'plus mark' like the one of Jaswantrao (Type 30).

1. Rupee of Jahandar Shah, Surat, 1124/1

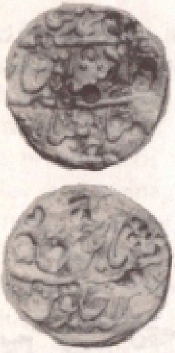


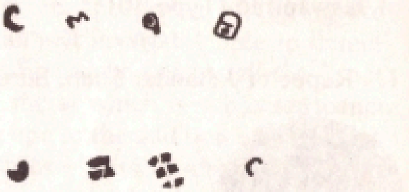
2. Rupee of Farrukhsiyar, Surat, ----/8



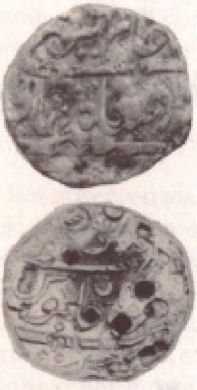
3. Rupee of Muhammad Shah, Kora, ----/13

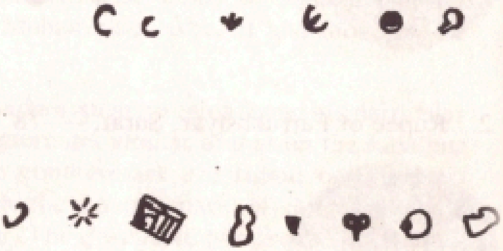
Countermarks



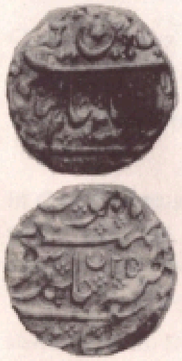


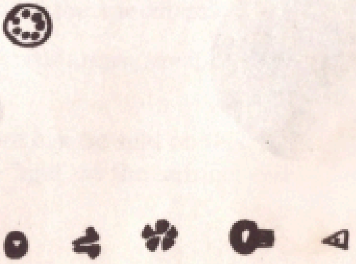
4. Rupee of Alamgir II, Arcot, ----/4



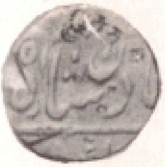


5. Rupee of Shah Alam II, Arcot, 1200/25





6. Rupee of Muhammad Akbar II, Hyderabad, 1251/33



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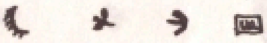
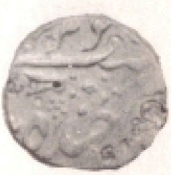
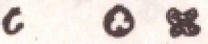
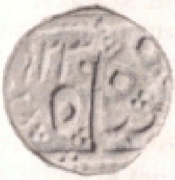
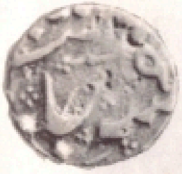


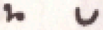




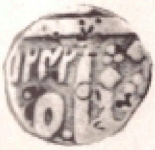
7. Rupee of Muhammad Akbar II, Khujista Buniyad, 1230/9

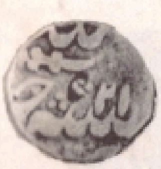






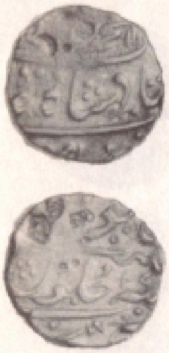
8. As 7 but 1242/21

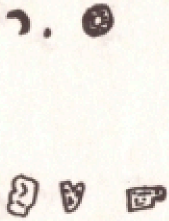




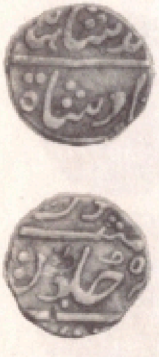
9. Rupee of Raghuji I, Chanda, 11xx/27

Countermarks

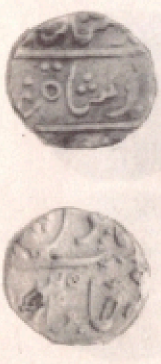


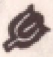


10. Rupee of Raghuji II, Nagpur, ----/5

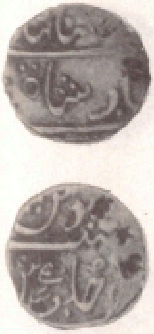


11. Rupee of Raghuji III, Nagpur, ----/5





12. Rupee of Raghuji III, Nagpur, ----/5



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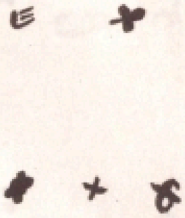
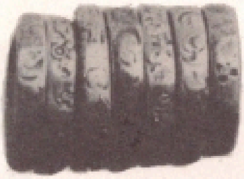
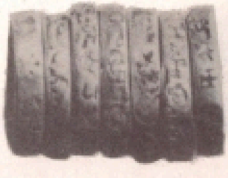


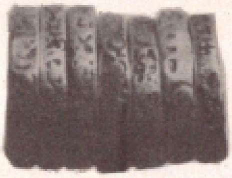
COUNTERMARKS ON OTHER BHONSLA COINS

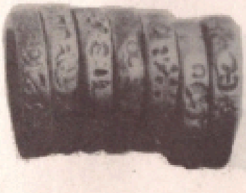
A few of these coins bear countermarks on their edges also. The first seven coins illustrated below from a group are made of base silver, because of which they were circulated more than other coins of better silver and consequently were subjected to test several times.

The edges of Nos 13 - 19 photographed from five different positions of the sides (circumference) are illustrated below :



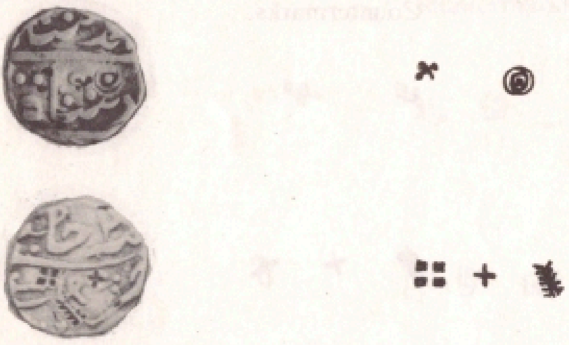






13

Countermarks



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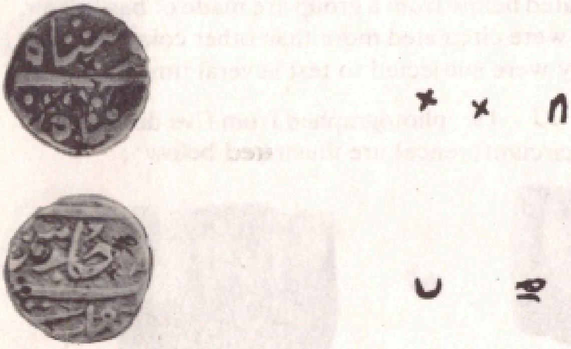

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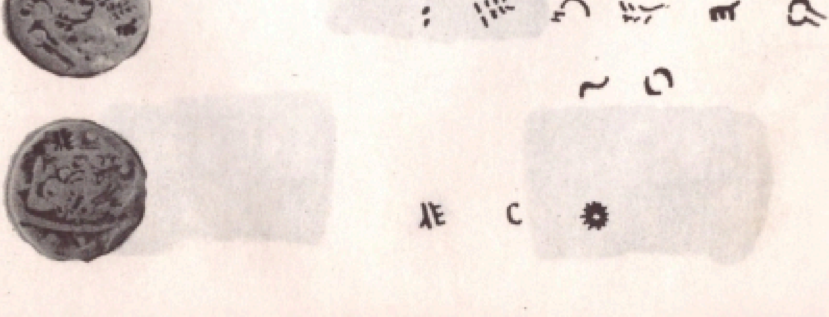

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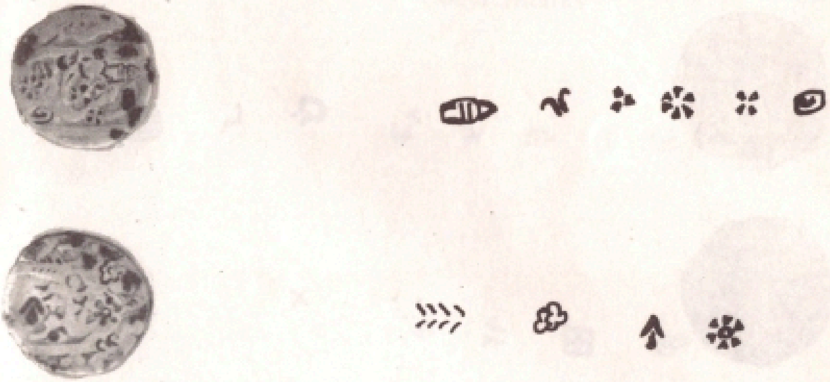

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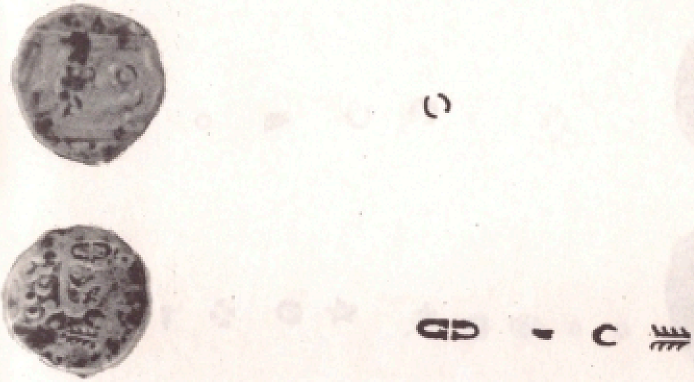

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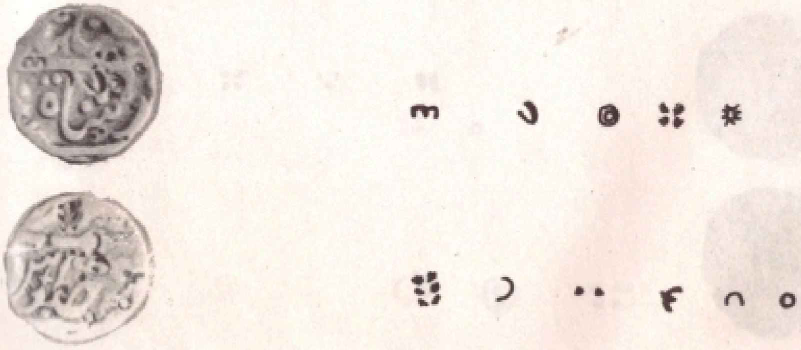

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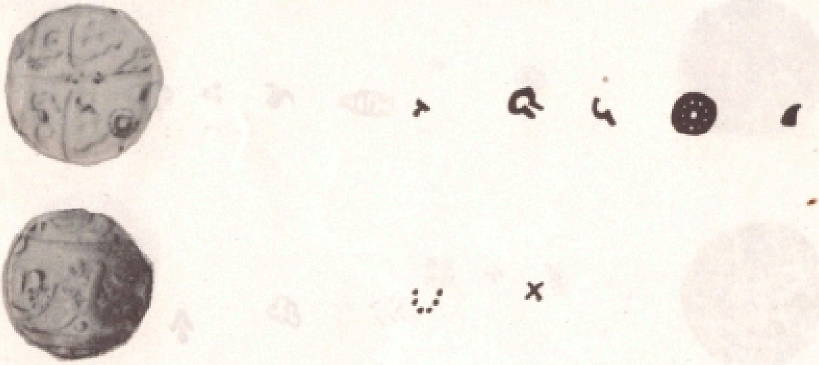

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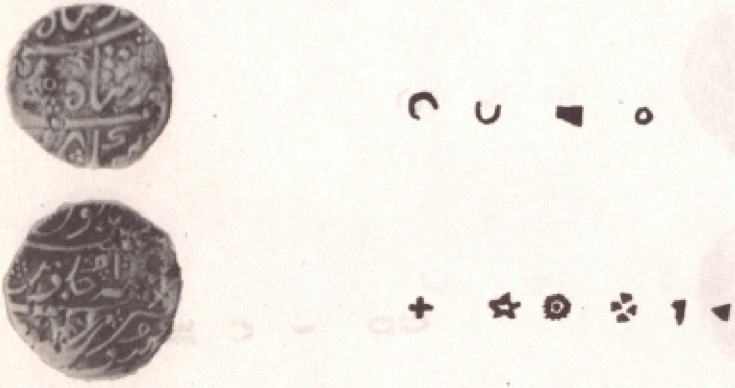

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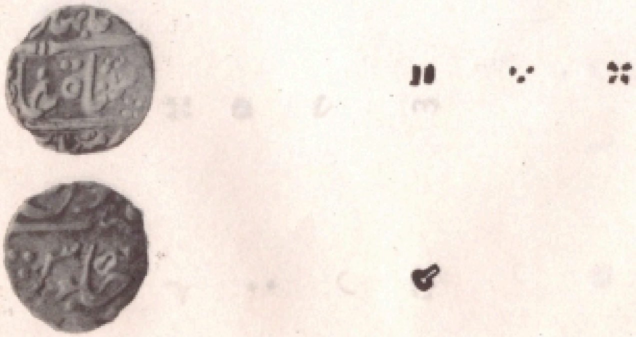

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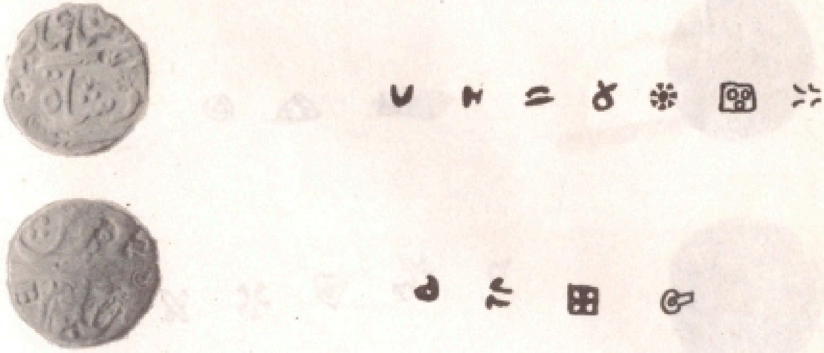

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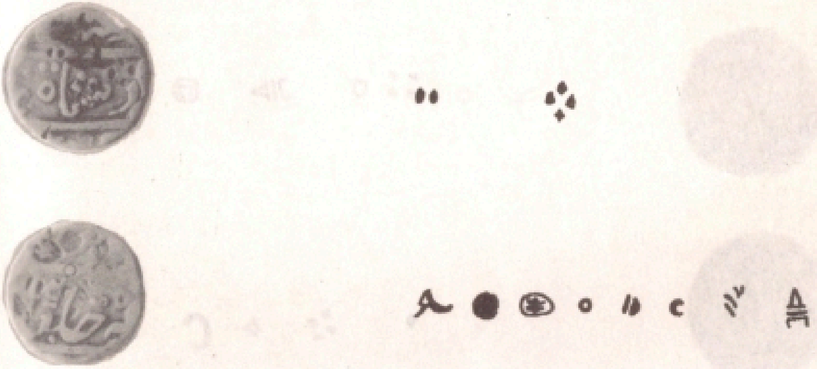

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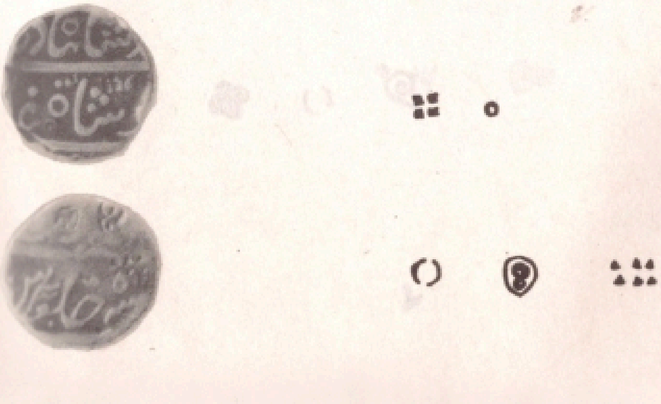

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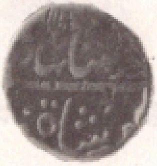

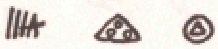

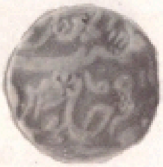

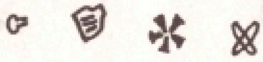

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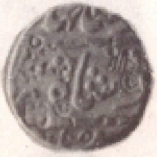

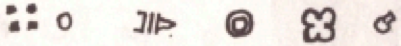

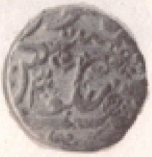

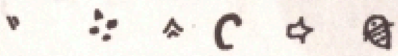

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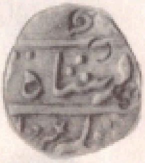
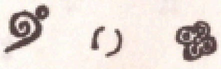
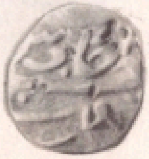
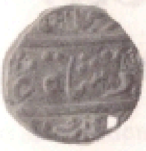


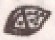


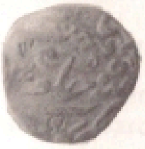


28

Countermarks







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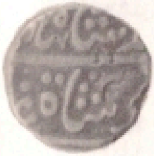

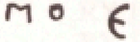

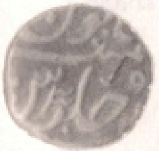

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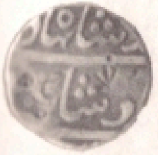
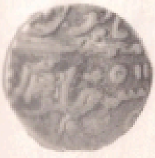




7. Some Statistical Observations

HOARD 170

Latest date - Raghuji II 1800-1808
Number of coins rulerwise :

Raghuji I	
Nagpur - Mint name *Surat*	42
Nagpur - Mint name *Cuttack*	30
Janoji	
Nagpur	14
Raghuji II	
Nagpur	72
Chandrapur	
Early type	5
Mughal coins	7
Total	170

This is an early hoard consisting coins upto AD 1800-1808. It was found in a bag with a *sarraf* at Nagpur, on noticing which the author could only make a count of numbers before it was dispersed.

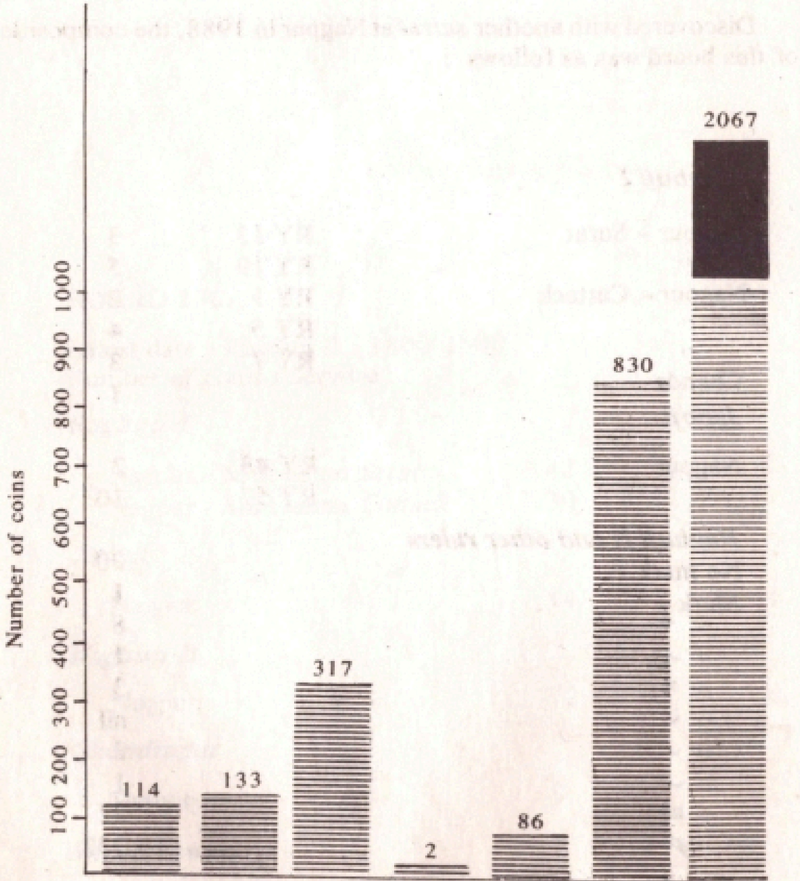
The hoard is important from the point of composition of various sorts in it. The early Chanda type of Raghuji I and Janoji seems to have been circulating with the early Nagpur rupees of the former. It is also evident that the Surat or the Cuttack rupees of Nagpur circulated freely together. It appears that the common man had nothing to do with the mint name or may be even with the legend on the rupees.

HOARD 426

Discovered with another *sarraf* at Nagpur in 1988, the composition of this hoard was as follows :

Raghuji I		
Nagpur - Surat	RY 13	3
,,	RY 19	5
Nagpur - Cuttack	RY 1	2
,,	RY 5	4
,,	RY 7	3
Chanda		1
Janoji		
Nagpur	RY 48	2
,,	RY 57	10
Raghuji II and other rulers		
No mark		30
Mark +		1
,, ٢		8
,, ـز:		1
,, ≍		3
,, ڽ		nil
,, ں		2
,, ںٛ		1
,,		32
,,		232

Chanda		65
Uncertain Mint mark	⚑	7
"		12
"	1188	2
	Total	426

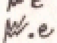


Graph I : Graph of Coins in Bags Examined During 1823-26 as Recorded by Dr Gordon and Captain Presgrave

This is a large hoard consisting coins of various periods. Since it did not consist any Mughal or other States' coins, it is assumed that the *sarraf* got hold of it together and that it was not a collection formed part by part. The largest number of coins are Dr Gordon's *Zariputka* struck from 1825-54 at which period the hoard must be in circulation.

COLLECTION 365

A collection formed by Mr Pankaj Bakhai of Nagpur over a period of ten years (1980 - 90) consists the following sorts :

Raghuji I	
Nagpur-Surat	33
Nagpur-Cuttack	27
Janoji	
Nagpur	4
Raghuji II	
No mark	25
Raghuji II & following rulers	
Mark +	2
,,	4
,,	nil
,, =	2
,,	1
,, ⌣	2
,,	3
,, •	6
,,	13
,,	2
,,	5
,,	1
,, 	104
Chanda	
Raghuji I	3
Janoji	2
Other rulers	79
Uncertain mint	
Type 14	9
Muhammad Shah	
Unusual RYs 40, 50,51	12
Aurangzeb crude RY 775	3
Mughal coins with counter-marks	10
Worn coins	13
Total	365

This is a collector's selection available in recent period. It is obviously biased towards rejection of the most common types, i.e., the Chanda rupees and the *Zariputka.* It is,however, very helpful for determining rarity of the various types.

Coming to the old records,we find that the following numbers of varieties were found during 1823 and 1826 by Dr Gordon and Captain Presgrave on inspections of different parcels of coins.[1]

Number of coins of	Dr Gordon's Assay Records 1823	Captain Presgrave's parcels 1826		Total No. of Rupees
	1st Parcel	1st Parcel	Other Parcels	
1. Raghuji II	85	28	1	114
2. Jaswantrao	–	13	120	133
3. Munbhutt	64	23	230	317
4. Mulla Huneef	–	2	–	2
5. Angnoolala	31	12	43	86
6. *Naldar* of Ramjee Tanteea, Shivaram and Narsinghrao	318	43	469	830
7. *Zariputka*	211	754	1102	2067

Hoard 426 and Collection 365 recalculated for comparison :

Number of coins of	Hoard 426	Collection 365
1. Raghuji II (no mark)	30	25
2. Jaswantrao	1	2
3. Munbhutt	8	4
4. Mulla Huneef	1	nil
5. Angnoolala	3	2
6. *Naldar*	3	6
7. *Zariputka*	264	125

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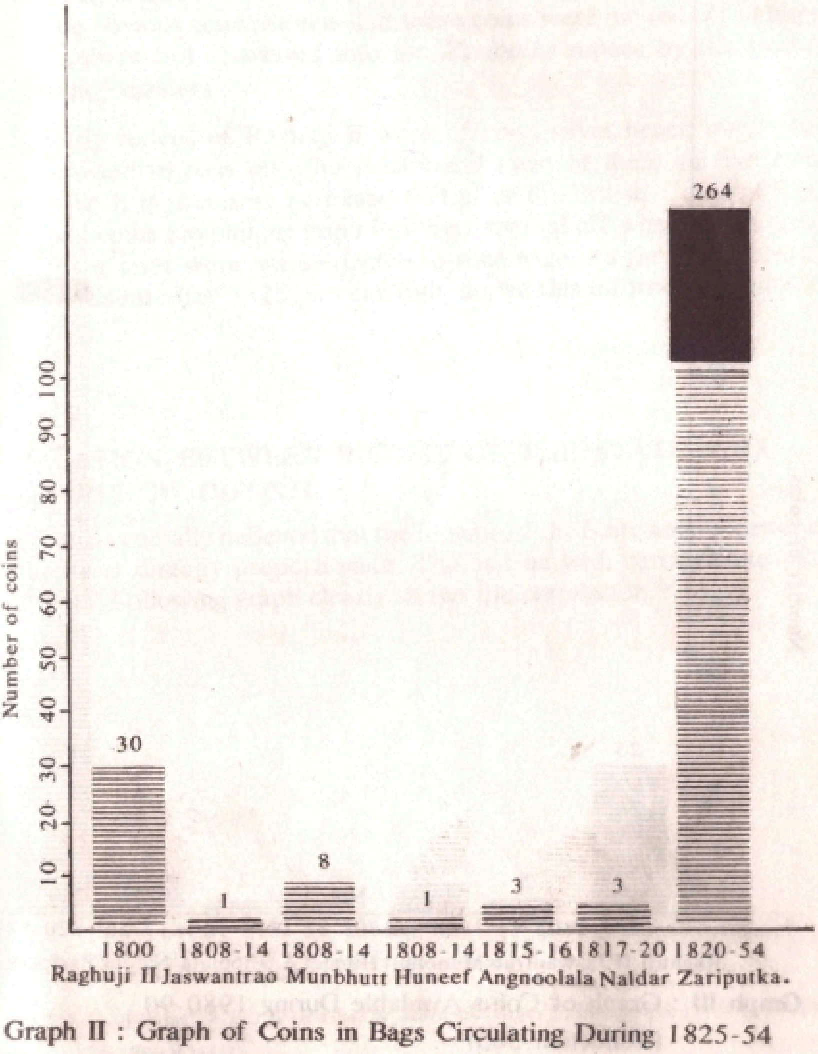
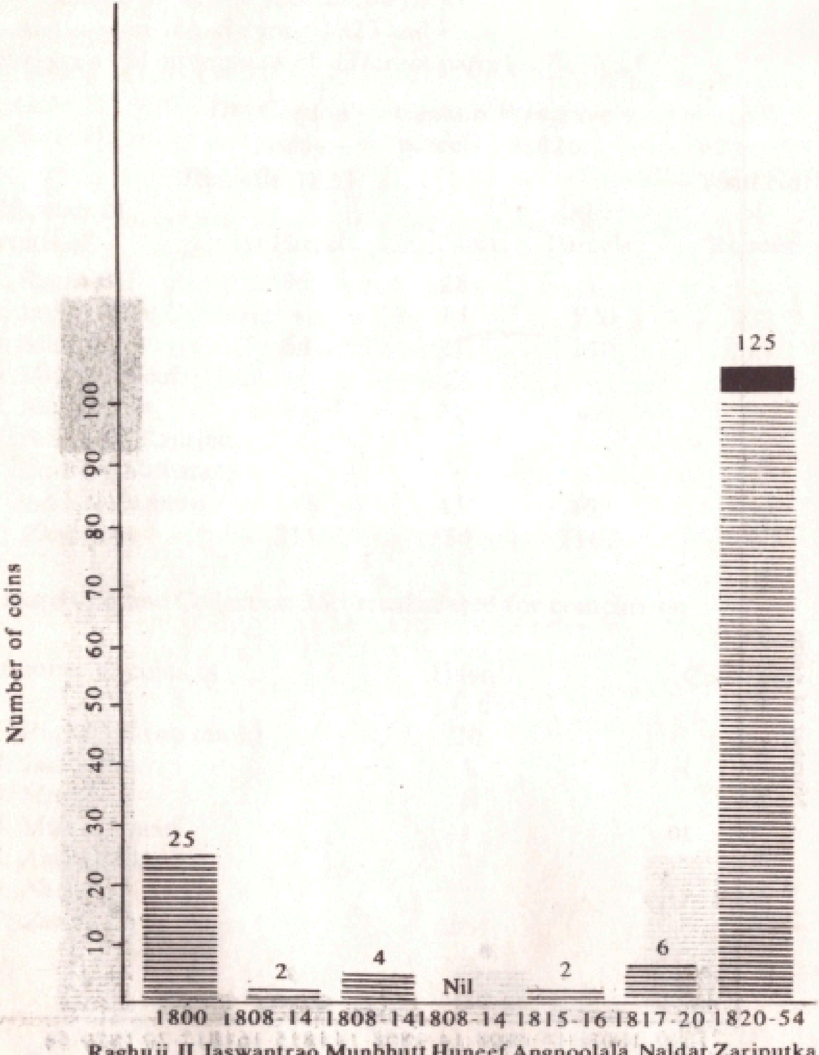
[1] Appendix 6, *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Case File No. 2 of 1826; Appendix 8, The Assay Report.

These tables converted into histograms would look as given hereunder.



Graph II : Graph of Coins in Bags Circulating During 1825-54 (Hoard 426)



Graph III : Graph of Coins Available During 1980-90
(Collection 365)

CONCLUSIONS

The three histograms help to conclude the following results :

1. The *Naldar* which was struck in very large number was almost 24% of the total number of coins in circulation during 1823-26. Soon after, its number fell down to about 1%. During the current period, it is very difficult to find a *Naldar.* Collection 365 is a good sample to show that *Naldar* is only 0.36% of the Nagpur rupees analysed. The obvious conclusion is that these coins were melted off in large numbers and converted into the *Zariputka* rupees by the British mint - masters.

2. Early rupees of Raghuji II were of good silver, hence they were allowed to pass into the *bazars* and most of them survive even now. It is therefore surmised that after the British control all bad coins (containing impurity) were melted off whereas the good silver ones were not subjected to recoinage. As the mint records are silent after 1825, we can only derive this information statistically.

RELATION BETWEEN INCOME OF THE STATE AND CURRENCY OUTPUT

It is generally believed that the income of the State and its currency output is directly proportionate. This is true with certain states like Indore. Following graph clearly shows the correlation.[2]

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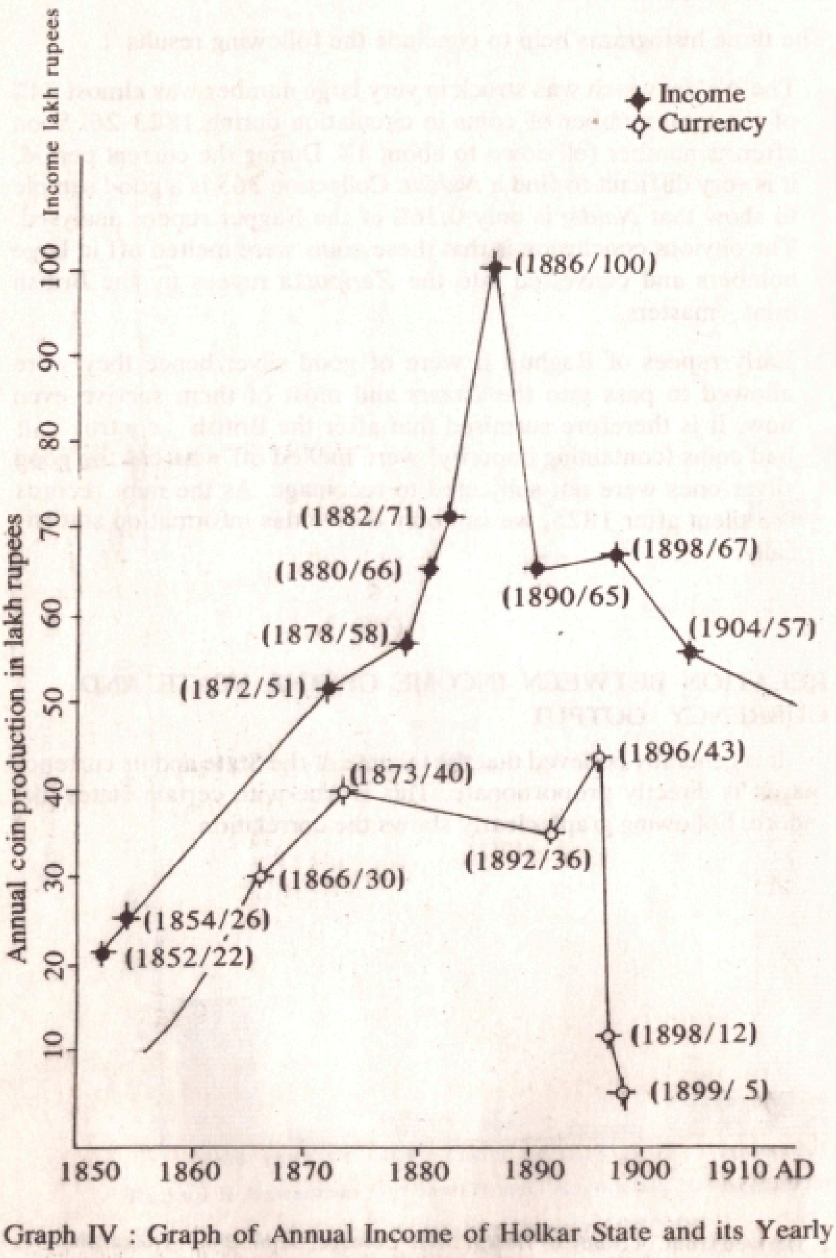
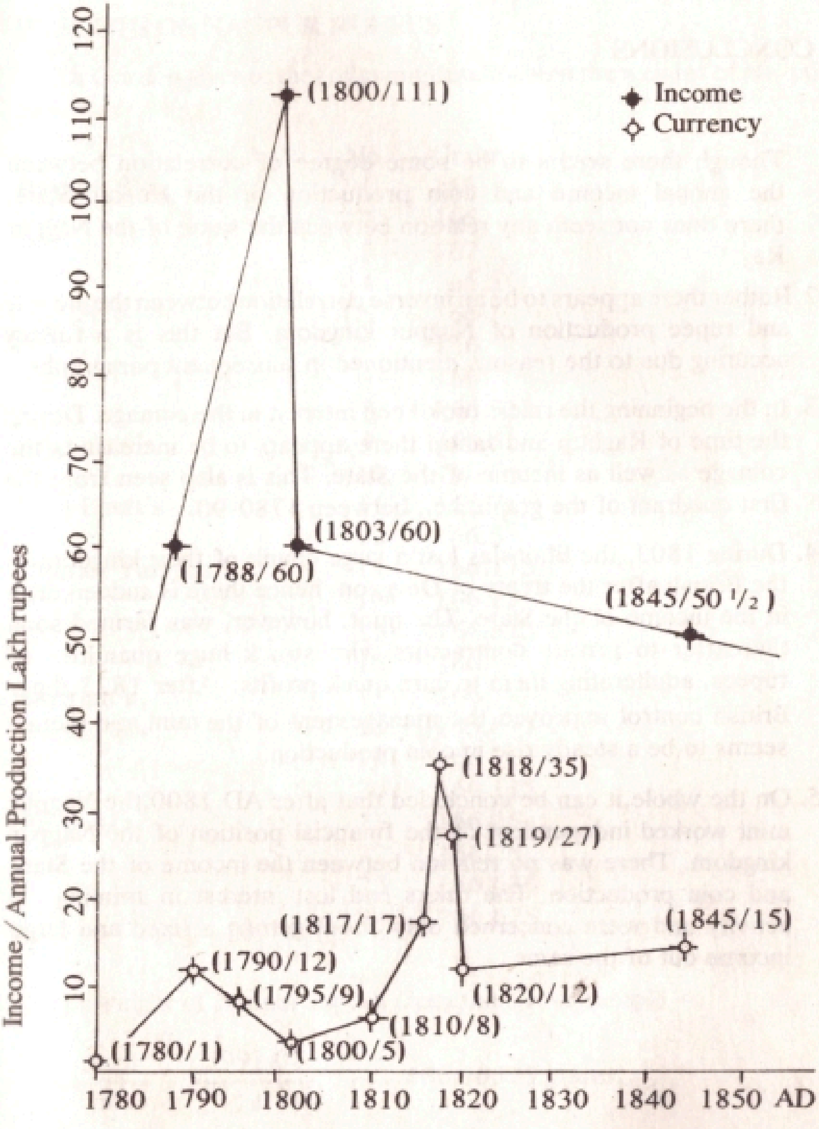
[2] Derived from, *A Study of Holkar State Coinage*, Sethi, Bhatt, Holkar, Indore, 1976, pp. 95-105.



Graph IV : Graph of Annual Income of Holkar State and its Yearly Coin Production at Indore Mint



Graph V : Graph of Annual Income of Nagpur State and its Yearly Coin Production at Nagpur Mint

Graph V shows the relation between the annual income of Nagpur State and the production of rupees at Nagpur. Following conclusions can be drawn from the study of Graphs IV and V.

CONCLUSIONS

Though there seems to be some degree of correlation between the annual income and coin production of the Holkar State, there does not seem any relation between the same of the Nagpur Raj.

2. Rather there appears to be an inverse correlation between the income and rupee production of Nagpur kingdom. But this is a fallacy occuring due to the reasons mentioned in subsequent paragraphs.

3. In the beginning,the rulers took keen interest in the coinage. During the time of Raghuji and Janoji there appears to be increase in the coinage as well as income of the State. This is also seen from the first quadrant of the graph, i.e., between 1780-90.

4. During 1803, the Bhonslas lost a large chunk of their kingdom to the British after the treaty of Devgaon, hence there is sudden drop in the income of the State. The mint, however, was farmed soon thereafter to private contractors who struck huge quantities of rupees, adulterating them to earn quick profits. After 1823 the British control improved the management of the mint,and there seems to be a steady rise in coin production.

5. On the whole,it can be concluded that after AD 1800,the Nagpur mint worked independent of the financial position of the Nagpur kingdom. There was no relation between the income of the State and coin production. The rulers had lost interest in minting activity and were concerned only about getting a fixed and large income out of the same.

WEIGHTS OF NAGPUR RUPEES

Dr Gordon gives us the following details about the weights of Nagpur rupees.[3]

	No.	Grains
Raghuji II's coin	1	166
	2	166
	3	167
	4	166.5
	5	166
	6	166
	7	166
	8	166.5
Angnulala's	9	166.5
	10	166.5
Mun Bhutt's	11	166.75
	12	166.5
Ramjee Tanteea's	13	166.175
	14	166.75
	15	166.125
	16	166
Shivram's	17	166
	18	165.875
	19	166
	20	166.125
Zariputka	21	166.25
	22	166.25
	23	166.625
	24	166.625

Mean weight of Nagpur rupees from the above sample =

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\Sigma x}{n} = \frac{3991.05}{24} = 166.29375 \text{ grains.}$$

Standard deviation = 0.30874

Standard error = ± 0.01342

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[3] Appendix 8, The Assay Report.

Since the leftward deviation must be due to wear and tear, the standard weight of the rupee should be mean plus standard deviation. Standard rupee weight =

166.29375 + 0.30874 = 166.60249 ± Standard error
= 166.60249 ± 0.01342
= 166.61591 or 166.58907 grammes
= 10.797 grammes or 10.795 grammes

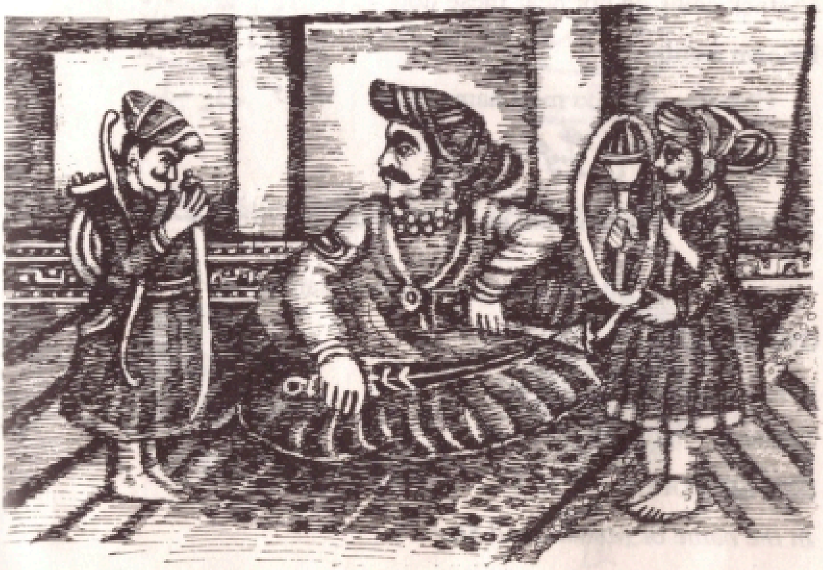
CONCLUSIONS

The standard weight is congruent with the theoretical weight of 83 *ruttees* i.e., 83 x 0.13 = 10.79 grammes.The weight of Nagpur rupee from Raghuji II onwards must therefore be taken as 10.79 grammes or rounded off to 10.8 grammes for all practical purposes. Since the series shows little deviation,it is obvious that great control was exercised over maintenance of the rupee weight at the Nagpur mint.

8. Catalogue of Coins

RAGHUJI I

AD 1730-1755
AH 1143-1168



Raghuji's mint-masters at Nagpur continued to strike the coins struck by Chand Sultan. These were crude copies of Muhammad Shah's Surat rupees. After the annexation of Cuttack in 1748, he brought a large booty to Nagpur. The Cuttack rupees of Ahmad Shah brought by the victor influenced the Nagpur coinage. The same were copied and continued for a very long time until the closure of the Nagpur Mint. Similar Surat coins of 86 *ruttees* or 11.18 g standard were also struck at Chanda.

DISTINGUISHING MARKS

Coins of Chanda mint bear a mark like an inverted nagari *ma* and a tiny sword between the *be* of *Zarb* and *seen* of the pseudo mint name *Surat*. These marks are absent on the Surat coins struck at Nagpur.

Coins of Cuttack mint are better engraved than those struck at Nagpur in the name of *Cuttack*. The Nagpur rupees always have two distinguishing dots over the *he* of *badshah.* (Possibly meant for *ye* of *gazi*). In exceptional cases there are even three dots. The original Cuttack coins do not bear these dots.

Known mints

Chanda - Pseudo mint name *Surat* سورت

Cuttack - کٹک

Nagpur - Pseudo mint name *Surat* up to 1748 سورت

1748 onwards pseudo mint name *Cuttack* کٹک

CHANDA MINT

Mint name *Surat* سورت

TYPE 1

SILVER RUPEE

In the name of Muhammad Shah

Legend : Obv : محمد شاہ بادشاہ غازی سکہ مبارک

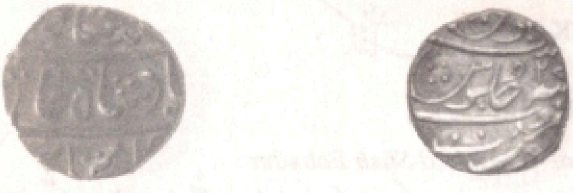
Muhammad Shah badshah gazi sikka mubarak

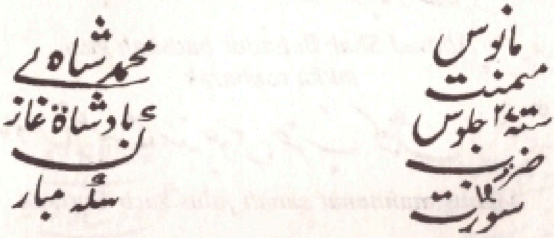
Rev : مانوس میمنت سنہ جلوس ضرب سورت

Manus maımanat sanah julus zarb Surat

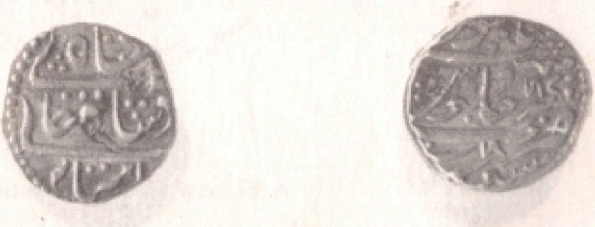
Known dates : 27, 47

1.1 **Date :...../27, Rarity ; Extremely rare**
11.1 g, 23 mm.

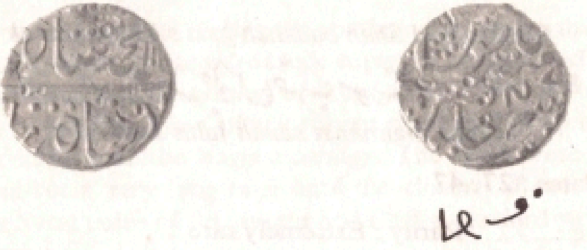



محمد شاہ ے
بادشاہ غاز
سکہ مبار
مانوس
میمنت
سنہ ۲ جلوس
ضرب
سورت

1.2 **Date :...../47 (Retrograde 4), Rarity : Extremely rare**
11.11 g, 24 mm.



1.3 Date :...../47, Rarity : Extremely rare
11.095 g, 23 mm.



CUTTACK MINT کٹک
TYPE 2

SILVER RUPEE

In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

Legend : Obv : احمد شاه بهادر بادشاه غازی سکه مبارک

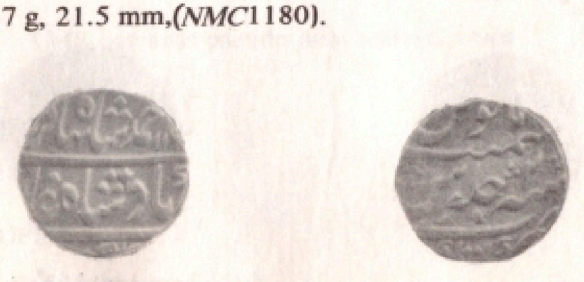
Ahmad Shah Bahadur badshah gazi
sikka mubarak

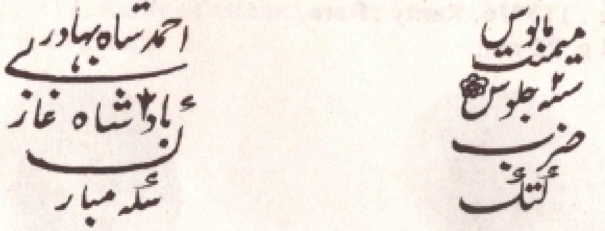
Rev : مانوس میمنت سنه جلوس ضرب کٹک

Manus maimanat sanah julus zarb Cuttack

Known dates : 2 and 5

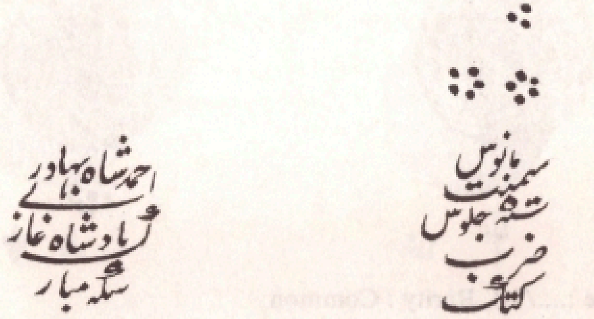
2.1 Date : 116x/2, Rarity : Unique
11.7 g, 21.5 mm,(*NMC*1180).





2.2 Date :...../5, Rarity : Unique

11.53 g, 22 mm. (*IMC* 2115).



NAGPUR MINT

Mint name *Surat* سورت

TYPE 3

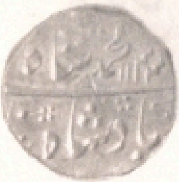
SILVER RUPEE

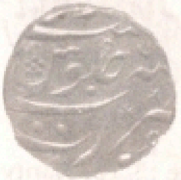
In the name of Muhammad Shah

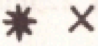
Legend : As Type 1

Known dates : 1133/6 (2 retrograde),6, 11, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

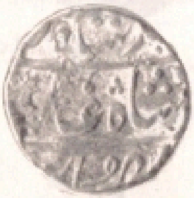
3.1 Date : 1133/6, Rarity : Rare
11.1 g, 22 mm.

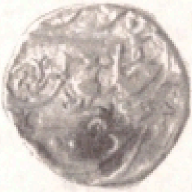


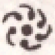




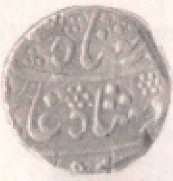
3.2 Date :..../6, Rarity : Rare
10.9 g. 24 mm.

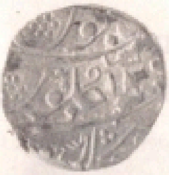


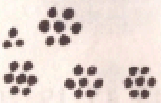


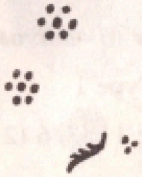


3.3 Date :..../13, Rarity : Common
10.89 g, 22 mm.

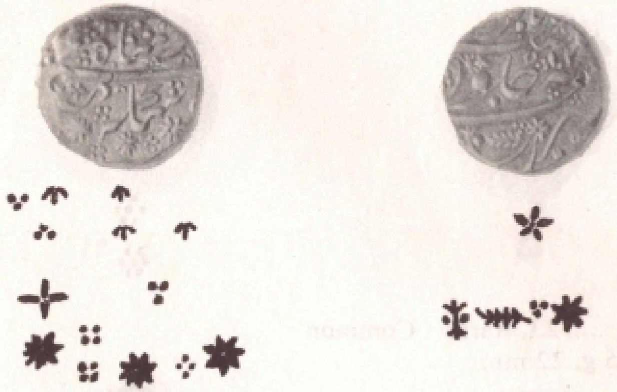




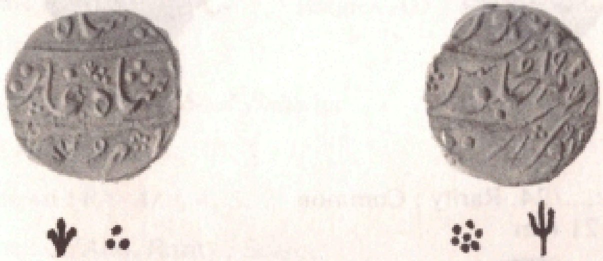




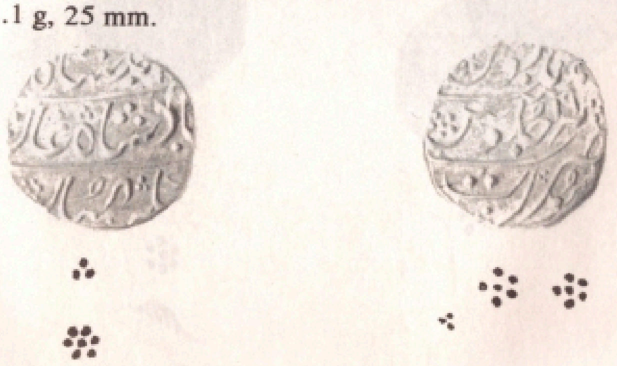
3.4 Date :...../13, Rarity : Extremely rare, flowery base
11.02 g, 21.5 mm.



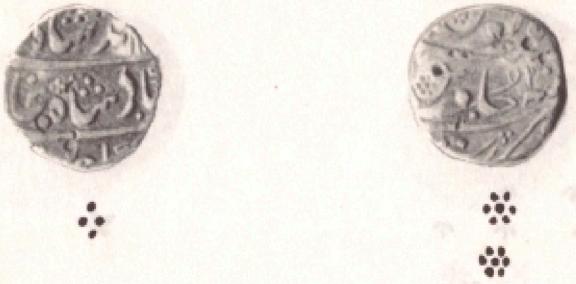
3.5 Date :...../19, Rarity : Common
11.03 g, 22 mm.



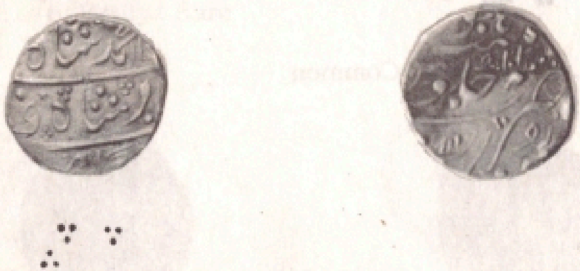
3.6 Date :...../19, Rarity : Very large flan - rare thus
11.1 g, 25 mm.



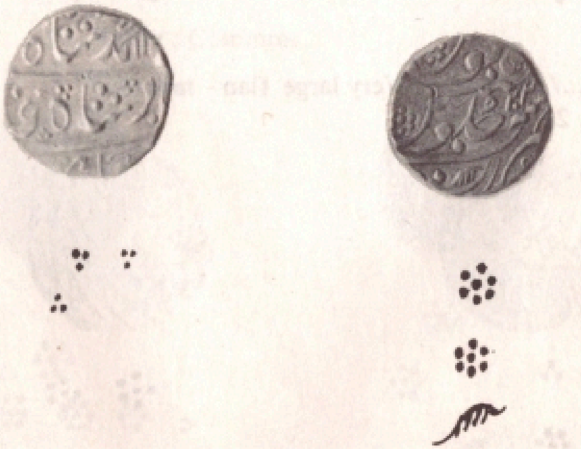
3.7 Date :...../20, Rarity : Common
11.1 g, 20 mm.



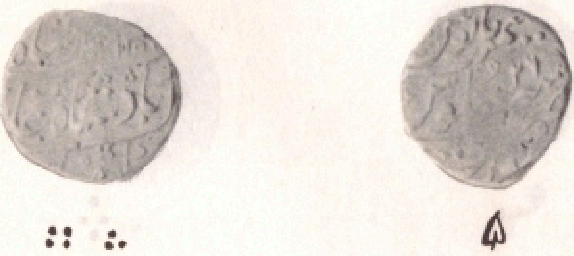
3.8 Date :...../23, Rarity : Common
11.05 g, 22 mm.



3.9 Date :...../24, Rarity : Common
11 g, 21 mm.



3.10 Date :1156/26, Rarity : Rare
11.15 g, 23 mm.



TYPE 4

Mint name *Cuttack* کٹک (Begins AD 1748)

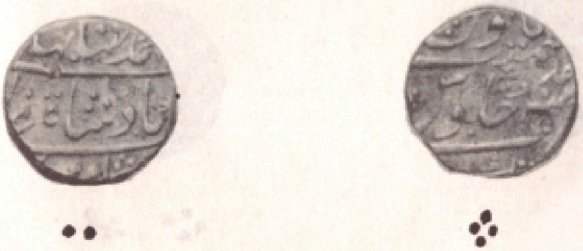
SILVER RUPEE

In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

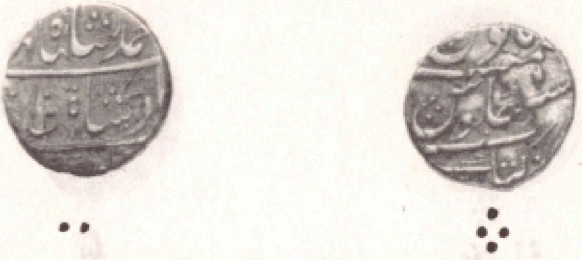
Legend : As Type 2

Dates known : RY *Ahd*, 4, 5, 7.

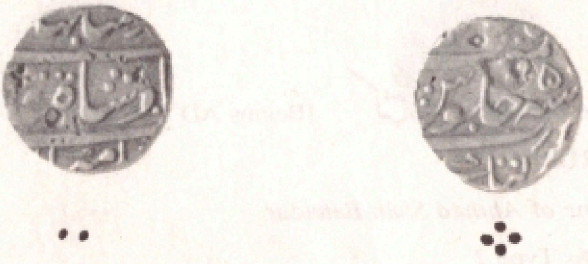
4.1 Date :..../Ahd, Rarity : Scarce
11.15 g, 22 mm.



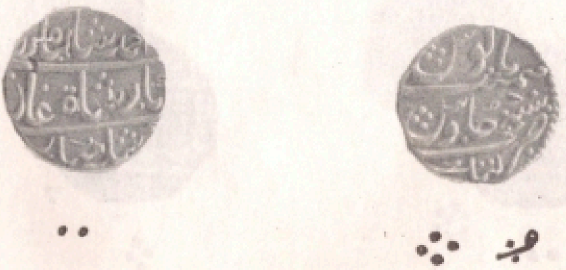
4.2 Date :...../4, Rarity : Rare
11.12 g, 24 mm.



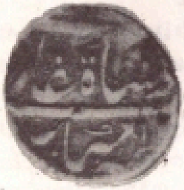
4.3 Date :...../5, Rarity : Scarce
11.07 g, 22 mm.

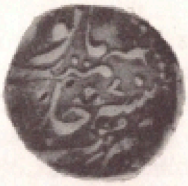


4.4 Date :...../7, (turned left), Rarity : Scarce
11.1 g, 21 mm.
Coin name : *Munjhola 7 sun*



4.5 Date :..../7, (turned right), Rarity : Scarce
11.1 g, 21 mm.
Coin name : *Munjhola 7 sun*





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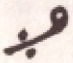
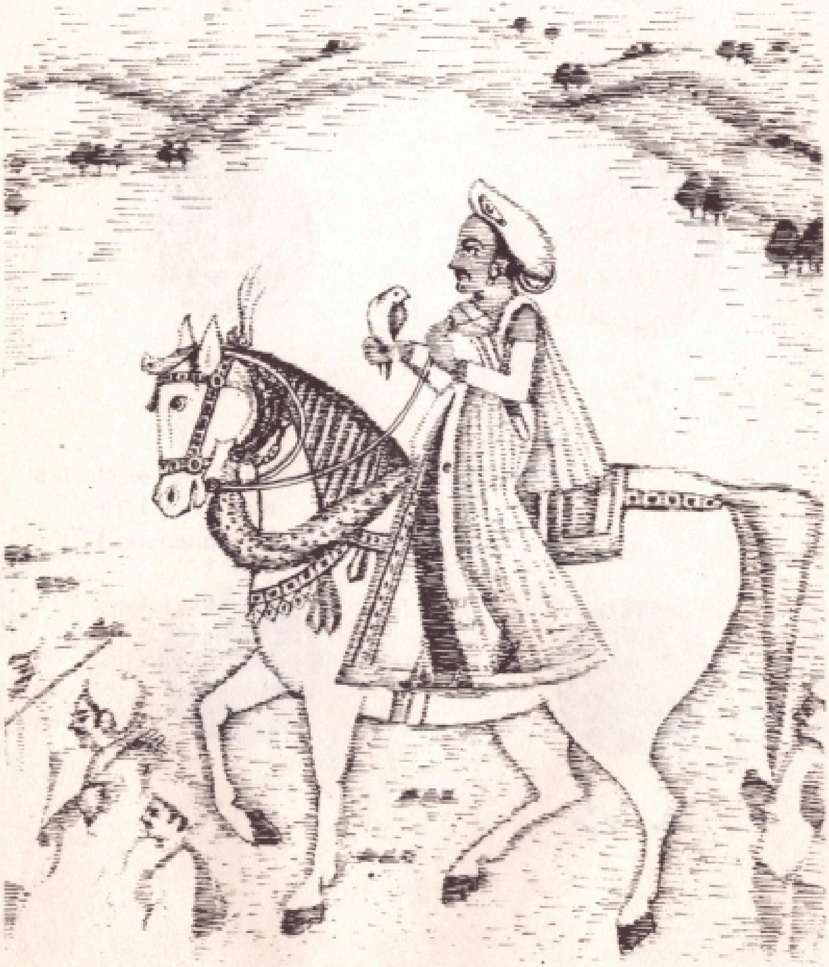


JANOJI

AD 1755-1772
AH 1168-1186



Janoji seems to have taken a keen interest in the coinage. A few years after assuming the throne he reduced the weights of the Nagpur rupees by one *ruttee* of pure silver.

New mints at Amravati and Gadhakota were started, and a few more towns that are unknown to us also seem to have struck some coins. There is an entirely new series of Cuttack rupees, which are much cruder than those struck at Nagpur, but are very heavy – at times heavier than the best coins of Raghuji I of 86 *ruttees*, indicating that they were struck at a different mint from Nagpur or Cuttack. These coins are illustrated under Type 15.

Janoji's copper coins of Amravati mint are the earliest Bhonsla copper coins. These were very popular throughout the entire Bhonsla rule.

Known mints

Amravati - Mint name not legible on coins
Chanda - Pseudo mint name *Surat* سورت
Cuttack کٹک
Gadhakota - گدہاکوت
Nagpur - Pseudo mint name *Cuttack* کٹک

AMRAVATI MINT

TYPE 5

COPPER PAISA : Light weight standard of 13 *mashas* (13.52 g).
In the name of Shah Ali Gauhar (Shah Alam II)

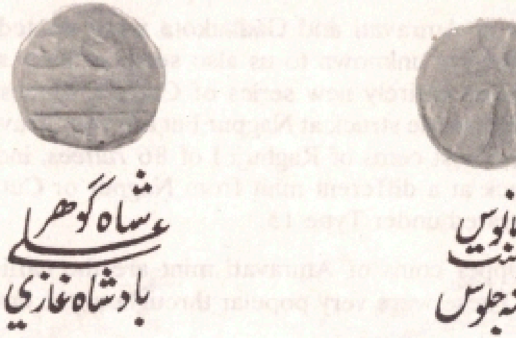
Legend : Obv : شاه علی گوهر بادشاه غازی

Shah Ali Gauhar badshah gazi

Rev : مانوس میمنت جلوس

Manus maimanat julus

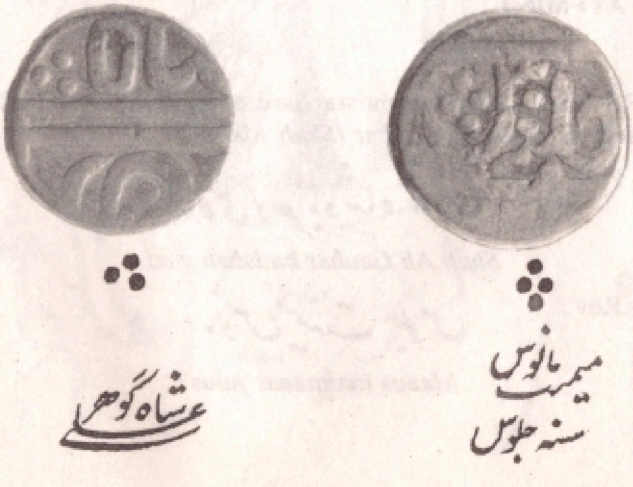
5.1 No date, Rarity : Very rare
13.45 g, 20 mm.
Coin name : *Do-dundi Paisa*


شاه گوهر علی
بادشاه غازی
میمنت مانوس
سنه جلوس

TYPE 6

COPPER 4 PAISA OR ONE ANNA : Light weight standard of 13 x 4 = 52 *mashas* (54.08 g).
In the name of Shah Ali Gauhar
Legend : As Type 5

6.1 No date, Rarity : Unique
49.95 g, 28 mm.
Coin name : *Do-dundi Anna*


شاه گوهر علی
میمنت مانوس
سنه جلوس

TYPE 7

COPPER 4 PAISA OR ONE ANNA

In the name of Shah Jahan III

Obv : شاه جهان بادشاه غازی

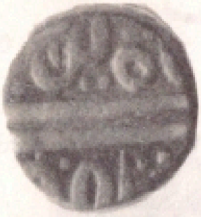
Shah Jahan badshah gazi

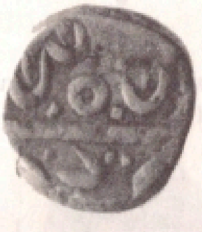
(Very crudely executed)

Rev : مانوس میمنت جلوس

Manus maimanat julus

7.1 No date, Rarity : Unique
48 g approx., 25 mm.





Jumbled Legend

Note : The legend on this 4 PAISA coin is an extremely crude mixture of that of Shah Ali Gauhar and Shah Jahan III, but there seems to be some improvement on that of the single paisa coins of Type 8.

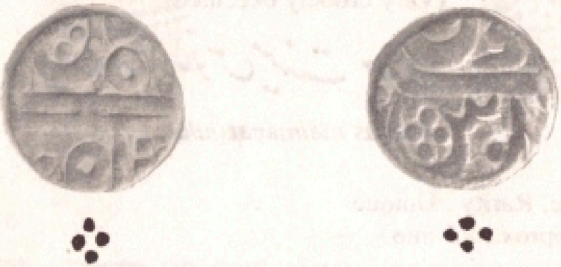
TYPE 8

COPPER PAISA

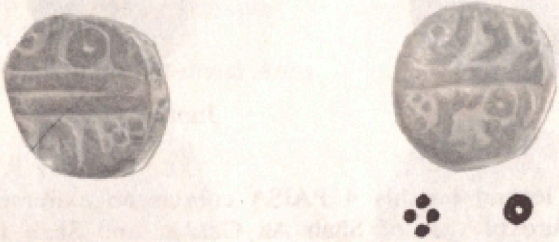
In the name of Shah Jahan III
Heavy weight standard of 20 *mashas* (20.8 g).

Legend : As Type 7

8.1 No date, Rarity : Common
20.02 g, 23-24 mm.
Coin name : *Do-dundi paisa*



8.2 No date, Rarity : Common
20.01 g, 22 mm.



CHANDA MINT

Mint name *Surat* سورت

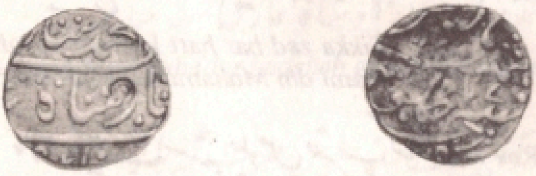
TYPE 9

SILVER RUPEE

In the name of Muhammad Shah

Legend : As Type 1.

9.1 Date : 11xx/27, Rarity : Rare
10.96 g, 21.5 mm.



CUTTACK MINT کتک

TYPE 10

SILVER RUPEE

In the name of Alamgir II

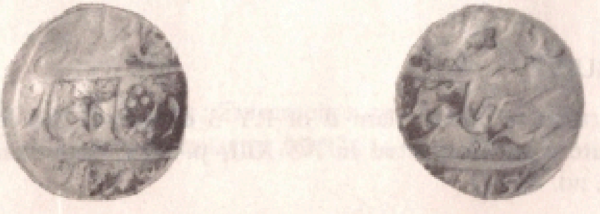
Legend : Obv: عالمگیر بادشاه غازی سکہ مبارک

Alamgir badshah gazi sikka mubarak

Rev : مانوس میمنت سنہ جلوس ضرب کتک

Manus maimanat sanah julus zarb Cuttack

10.1 Date :...../7, Rarity : Extremely rare
11.5 g, 23 mm.



TYPE 11

SILVER 1/4 RUPEE

In the name of Shah Alam II

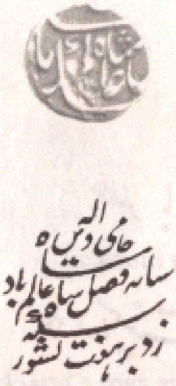
Legend : Obv : سکه زد بر هفت کشور سایه فضل اله حامی دین محمد شاه عالم بادشاه

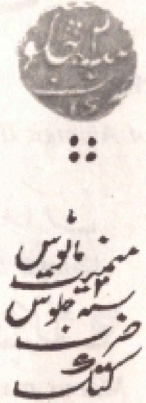
Sikka zad bar hatt kishwar sayah fazl-i-ilah
Hami din Muhammad Shah Alam badshah

Rev : مانوس میمنت سنه جلوس ضرب کتک

Manus maimanat sanah julus zarb Cuttack

11.1 Date :...../2, Rarity : Unique
2.6 g, 15 mm.


اله
حامی دین ه
سایه فضل شاه عالم باد
زد بر هفت کشور


مانوس
میمنت
سنه جلوس
ضرب
کتک

TYPE 12

SILVER RUPEE

A unique rupee of Shah Alam II of RY 3 existed in the collection of Dr White King (Reported in *NS* XIII, p. 238; Schulman's *Sale Catalogue*, no. 4111).

GADHAKOTA MINT گدہاکوت

TYPE 13

SILVER RUPEE

In the name of Ahamd Shah Bahadur

Legend : Obv. احمد شاہ بہادر بادشاہ غازی سکہ مبارک

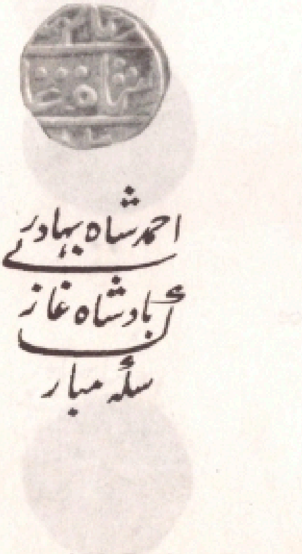
Ahamd Shah Bahadur,badshah gazi sikka mubarak

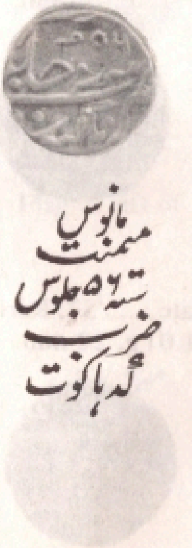
Rev : مانوس میمنت سنہ جلوس ضرب گدہاکوت

Manus maimanat sanah julus zarb Gadhakota

Known date : 56, comprising pseudo 5.

13.1 Date :..../56, Rarity : Extremely rare
10.8 g, 19 mm, (*NMC* 1215).


ش
احمد شاہ بہادر
ی
بادشاہ غاز
سکہ مبار


مانوس
میمنت
سنہ ۵٦ جلوس
ضرب
گدہاکوت

13.2 Date :..../56, Rarity : Extremely rare
10.9 g, 19 mm (Similar to *NMC* 1168).

NAGPUR MINT

Mint name *Cuttack* کٹک

TYPE 14

SILVER RUPEE

In the name of Ahamd Shah Bahadur

Legend : As Type 2

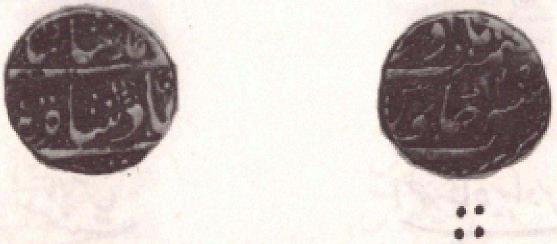
Known dates : 14, 211, 312, 48, 57 (possibly comprising code numbers).

14.1 Date :...../14, Rarity : Rare
10.9 g, 22 mm, (*NMC* 1189).

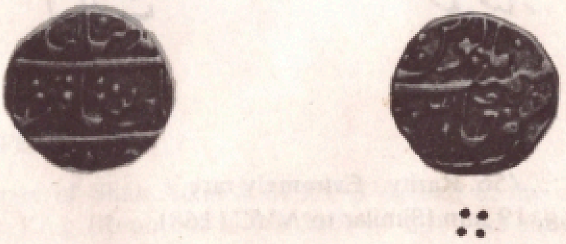
14.2 Date :...../211, Rarity : Rare
11.016 g, 21-22 mm (*IMC* 2118).

14.3 Date :...../312, Rarity : Rare
10.8 g, 20-21 mm.

14.4 Date :...../48, Rarity : Rare
11.02 g, 22 mm.



14.5 Date :...../57, Rarity : Scarce
11.01 g, 22 mm.



UNCERTAIN MINT

Mint name *Cuttack* کتک

TYPE 15

SILVER RUPEE

In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

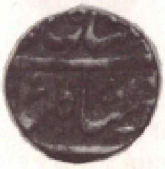
Legend : As Type 2

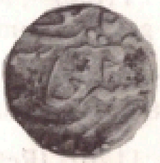
Known dates : ..../1, .../8, .../11, .../12, (11)60/-,
(11)69/.... (11)74/.... (11)76/.... 1177/.... 1182/....

15.1 Date :..../1, Rarity : Scarce
11.1g, 21 mm.

Flag to right of 1

15.2 Date :..../8, Rarity : Scarce
11.15 g, 20 mm.





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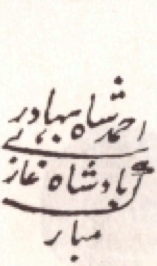
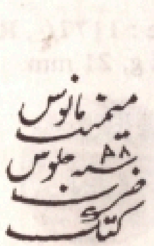
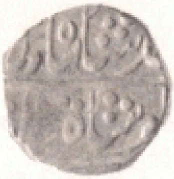
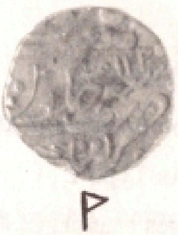
Flag to left of 8


احمد شاه بهادر
بادشاه غازی
مبارک


میمنت مانوس
سنه ۸ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

15.3 Date :..../11, Rarity : Scarce
11.24 g, 22 mm.





Flag to right of 11

15.4 Date :..../11, Rarity : Scarce
11.1 g, 22 mm.

15.5 Date :..../12, Rarity : Scarce
11.08 g, 21-22 mm, (*IMC* 2134).

15.6 Date : 11(60)/-, Rarity : Scarce
11.2 g, 21-22 mm.

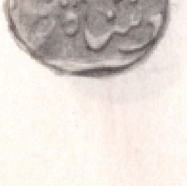
15.7 Date : (11)69/...., Rarity : Scarce
11.08 g, 21-22 mm, (*IMC* 2129).

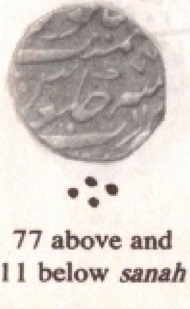
15.8 Date :1170/- (Retrograde), Rarity : Rare
11 g, 21 mm.

15.9 Date : (11)74/...., Rarity : Scarce
11.016 g, 23 mm, (*IMC* 2130).

15.10 Date : (11)76/...., Rarity : Scarce
11g, 22mm.

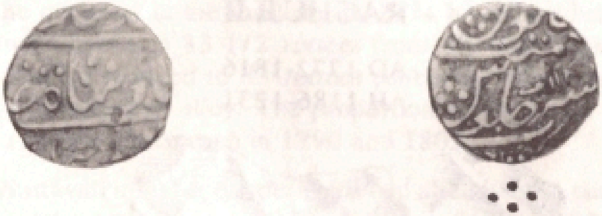
15.11 Date : 1177/-, Rarity : Very rare
11.1g, 21 mm.





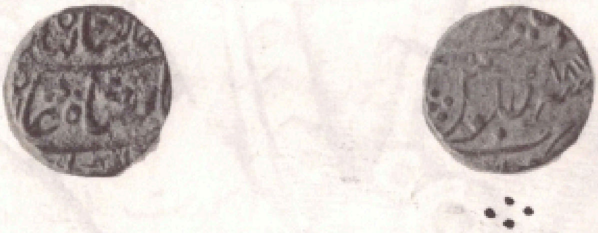
77 above and
11 below *sanah*

15.12 Date : 1180/-, Rarity : Very rare
11g, 22 mm.



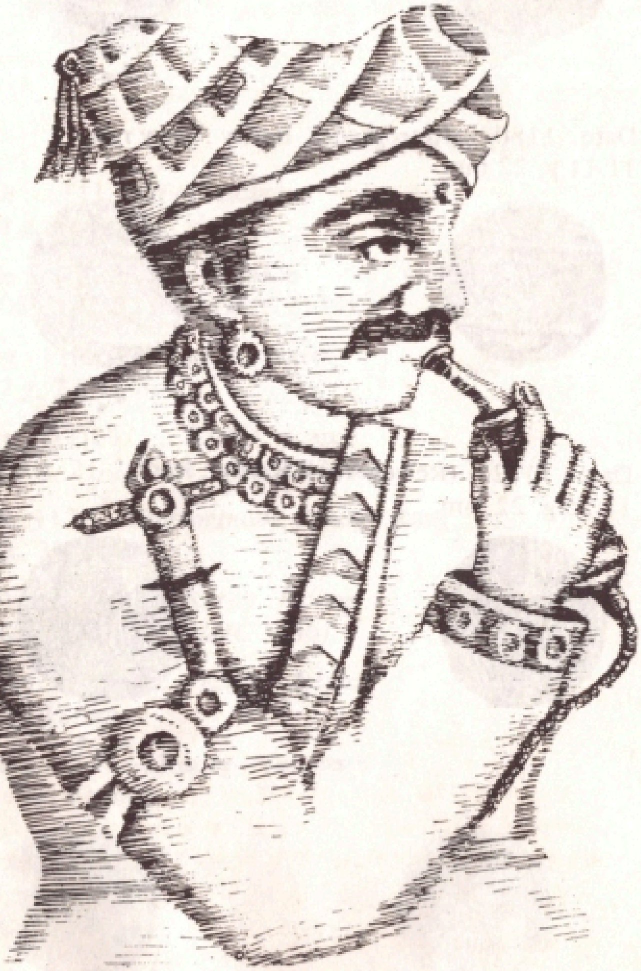
15.13 Date : 1180/- (Retrograde), Rarity : Very rare
11.11 g, 22 mm.

15.14 Date : 1182/- (Retrograde), Rarity : Rare
11.25 g, 22 mm.



RAGHUJI II

AD 1772-1816
AH 1186-1231



The coinage of Raghuji II exhibits the widest range of varieties in Bhonsla coinage. Being commercial minded he tried to regulate the coinage by reducing the weight of the coins and checking the depreciation of the currency in the markets. In 1774 he reduced the Nagpur and Chanda rupees to 83 1/2 *ruttees* from 85. The following year this was further reduced to 83 *ruttees* containing 76 *ruttees* of pure silver and 7 *ruttees* of alloy. The proportion of alloy was thereafter increased by one *ruttee* each in 1790 and 1803.

The Amravati mint for copper coins had already been closed down in 1772,and there was a scarcity of copper coinage. Raghuji II therefore installed a copper mint at Nagpur in 1810 and struck coins weighing 19 *mashas*. In 1815,however, they were brought down to 15 1/2 *mashas*. Raghuji also struck gold mohurs for the first time in Bhonsla history. These were not circulated,but worn around horses' necks.

Known mints

Chanda – Pseudo mint name *Surat* سورت

Cuttack – کتک

Jabalpur – Pseudo mint name *Cuttack* کتک

Nagpur – Pseudo mint name *Cuttack* کتک for silver coins,

mint name *Nagpur* ناگپور for copper coins.

CHANDA MINT

Mint name *Surat* سورت

Note : From Raghuji II onwards, the Chanda rupees cannot be distinguished by ruler. The coins listed below were also struck during the reigns of Parsoji II, Appa Saheb and Raghuji III.

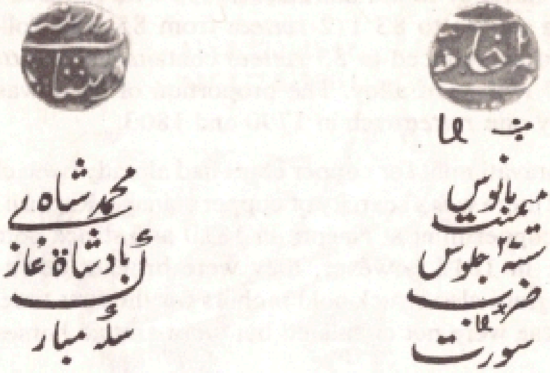
TYPE 16

SILVER 1/4 RUPEE

In the name of Muhammad Shah

Legend : As Type 1

16.1 Date :..../27, Rarity : Unique
2.6 g, 14 mm.


محمد شاه
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک
میمنت مانوس
سنه ۲۷ جلوس
ضرب
سورت

TYPE 17

SILVER 1/2 RUPEE

As Type 16

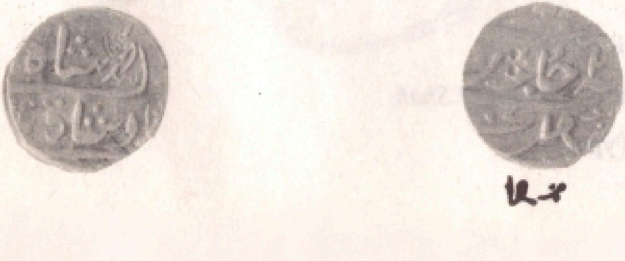
17.1 Date :..../(27), Rarity : Extremely rare
5.4 g, 17 mm.

TYPE 18

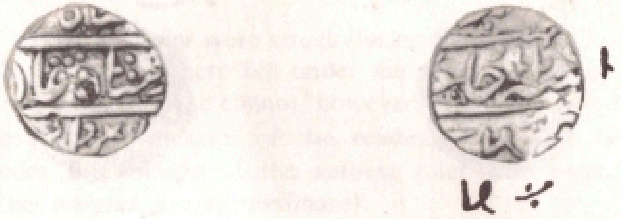
SILVER RUPEE

As Type 16

18.1 Date :11xx/27, Rarity : Common
10.8 g, 21 mm.



18.2 Date :...../27, Rarity : Scarce
10.68 g, 20 mm.



CUTTACK MINT

TYPE 19

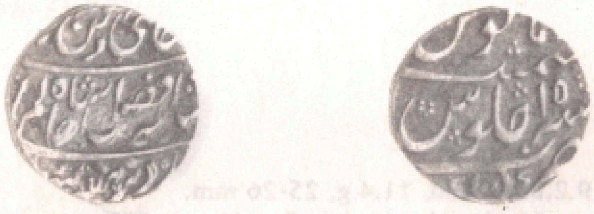
SILVER RUPEE

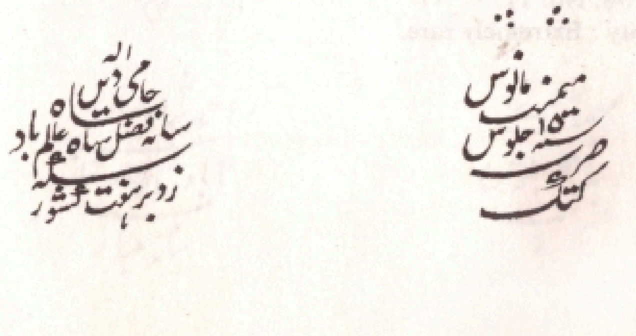
In the name of Shah Alam II

Legend : As Type 11

Known dates : 15, 22

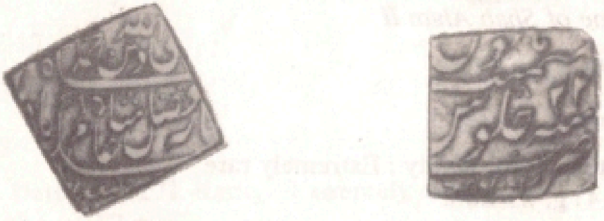
19.1 Date :...../15, Rarity : Extremely rare
11.41 g, 25 mm.





19.2 Date :...../22, Rarity : Unique
Octagonal, 22 mm.

19.3 Date :...../22, Rarity : Extremely rare
square, 22 mm *(SCWC, ANS Collection)*



19.4 As 19.2,but round, 11.4 g, 25-26 mm.
Reported in the *Numismatic Supplement*, XIII,
p. 238, No. 12.
Rarity : Extremely rare.

JABALPUR MINT

Mint name *Cuttack* کٹک

Note : Coins of this mint were struck during 1800 to 1817. Thus, some of them fall under the reigns of Parsoji II and Appa Saheb. These cannot, however, be distinguished. For the convenience of the readers, these are listed under the coinage of the earliest ruler who issued them. (The weights are approximate).

TYPE 20

COPPER PAISA

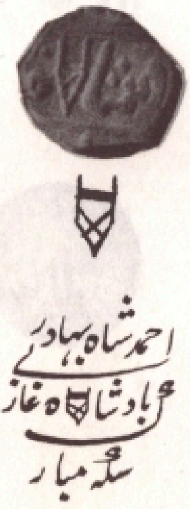
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

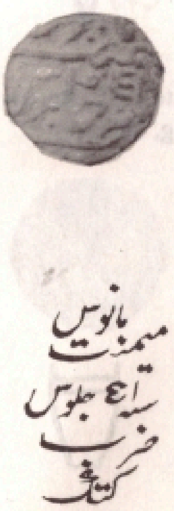
Mint-master : Nana Ghatge

Legend : As Type 2

Known date : 51, comprising pseudo 5 and frozen year 1.

20.1 Date : 51, Rarity : Scarce
15 g, 21 mm.


احمد شاه بهادر
ی
ع بادشاه غاز
سکه مبار


مانوس
میمنت
سنه ۵۱ جلوس
ضرب
کٹک

20.2 Date : 51, Rarity : Scarce
14 g, 21 mm.

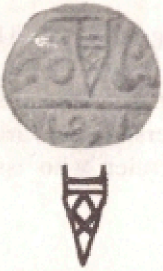
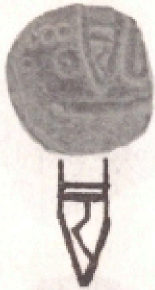
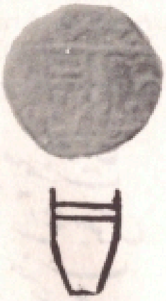


Figure of Persian 6
to the left of *Julus*

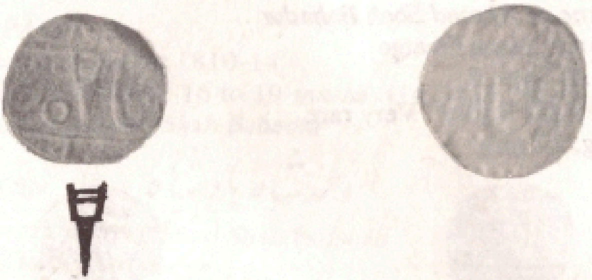
20:3 Date : 51, Rarity : Scarce
16 g, 21 mm.



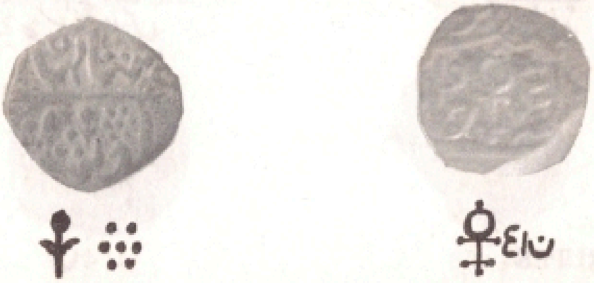
20.4 Date : 51, Rarity : Scarce
14 g, 21 mm.



20.5 Date : 51, Rarity : Scarce
15 g, 20 mm.



20.6 Date : 51, Rarity : Scarce
15 g, 22 mm.



TYPE 21

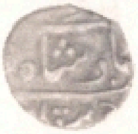
SILVER 1/2 RUPEE

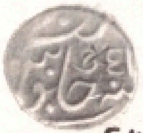
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

Mint-master : Nana Ghatge

Legend : As Type 2

21.1 Date : 51, Rarity : Very rare
5.5 g, 17 mm.





١١٤٥

احمد شاه بهادر
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک

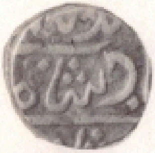
میمنت مانوس
سنه ۴ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

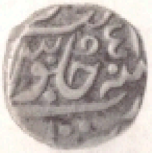
TYPE 22

SILVER RUPEE

As Type 21

22.1 Date : 51, Rarity : Scarce
10.8 g, 19-20 mm.





NAGPUR MINT

Mint name *Cuttack* کتک for silver coins, *Nagpur* ناگپور for copper coins.

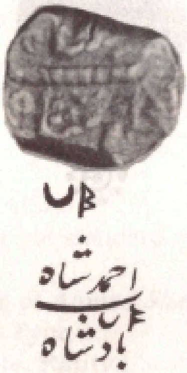
TYPE 23

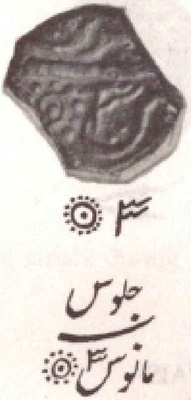
COPPER PAISA
Early type struck during 1810-14
Heavy weight standard - 16 to 19 *mashas* (16.64 to 19.76 g)
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

Legend : Obv. : احمد شاه بادشاه
Ahmad Shah badshah

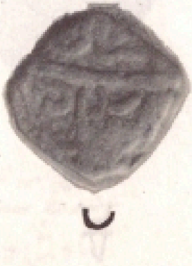
Rev : جلوس مانوس
Julus manus

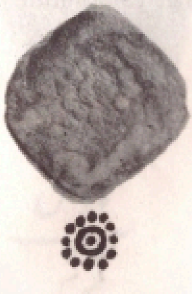
23.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
16.85 g, 22 mm.



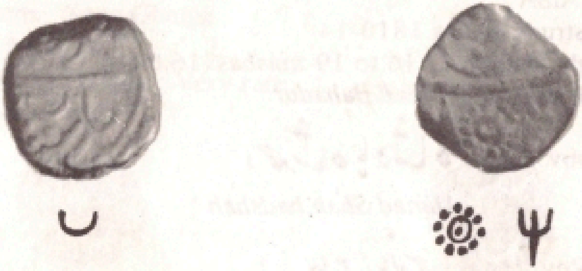


23.2 No date, Rarity : Scarce
16.45 g, (worn), (Square) 21 mm.

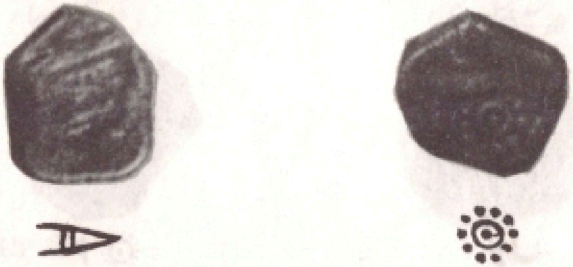




23.3 No date, Rarity : Scarce
16.7 g, 20 mm.



23.4 No date, Rarity : Scarce
16.4 g (cut), 21 mm.



TYPE 24

COPPER PAISA
As Type 23
Legend : Uncertain

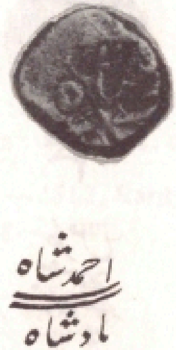
24.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
16.8 g, 19-20 mm.

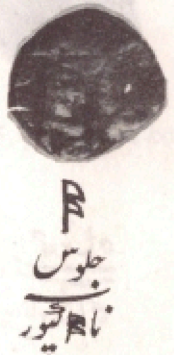
TYPE 25

COPPER PAISA

As Type 23,but *Nagpur* ناگپور in place of *manus* مانوس

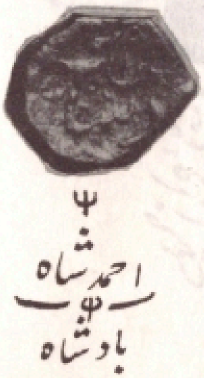
25.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
16.8 g, 19 mm.

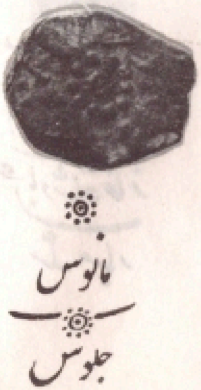

احمد شاه
بادشاه


جلوس
ناگپور

Type 26

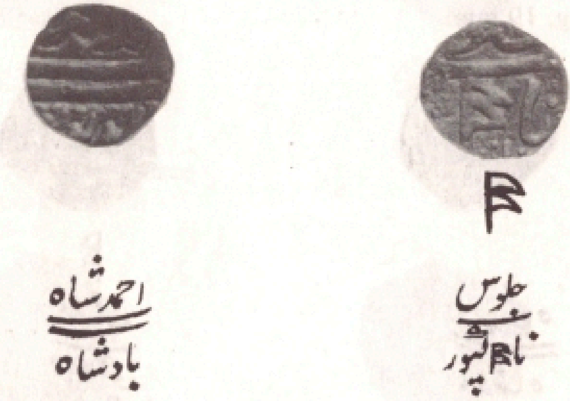
COPPER PAISA
Reduced weight standard of 15 1/4 *mashas*, struck during 1815-16. (15.86 g).
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur
Legend : As Type 23
26.1 No date, Rarity ; Scarce
14.6 g (Cut), 23 mm.


احمد شاه
بادشاه



TYPE 27

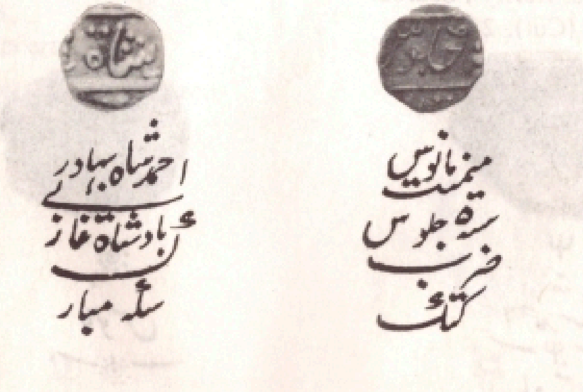
As Type 26
Legend : As Type 25
Note : These coins are milled on the edge.
27.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
15.1 g, 19 mm.


احمد شاه
بادشاه
جلوس
ناگپور

TYPE 28

SILVER 1/4 RUPEE : Early type *c* 1772-1808
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

Legend : As Type 2
28.1 Date : ---/- Rarity : Very rare
2.65 g, 14 mm.

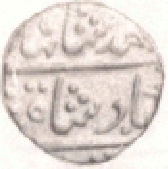

احمد شاه بهادر
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک
میمنت مانوس
سنه ۵ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

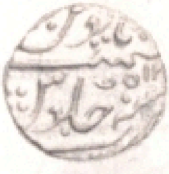
28.2 Date : ---/5x, Rarity : Very rare
2.6 g, 14 mm.

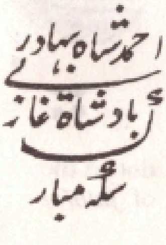
TYPE 29

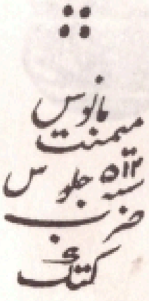
SILVER RUPEE
As Type 28.Struck during 1772-1808.
Known dates : 512, 521, comprising pseudo 5, possibly a code.

29.1 Date : ---/512, Rarity : Common
10.25 g, 21 mm.

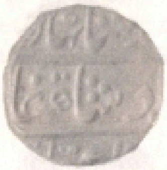


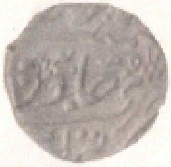


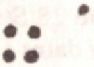

احمد شاه بهادر
ابی
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک


مانوس
میمنت
سنه ۵۱۲ جلوس
ضرب
کٹک

29.2 Date : ---/512, Rarity : Common
11 g, 21 mm.

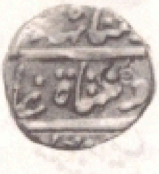


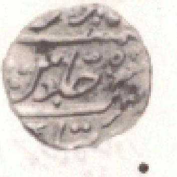


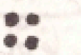


dot to the
left of *julu(s)*

29.3 Date :---/521, Rarity : Common
10.85 g, 20 mm.







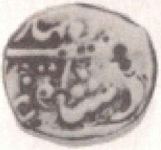
dot to the
left of *julu(s)*

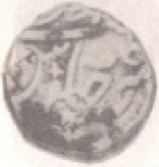
TYPE 30

SILVER RUPEE

In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur.
Mint-master : Jaswantrao, *c*1808-14
Coin name : *Chowfoolia*
Legend : As Type 2

30.1 Date : ---/5, Rarity : Rare
10.6 g, 19 mm.





+

احمد شاه بهادر
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک

مانوس
میمنت
سنه ٥ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

TYPE 31

SILVER RUPEE
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur
Mint-master : Munbhutt, *c*1808-14.
Coin name : *Padookashaee*
Legend : As Type 2

31.1 Date : ---/5, Rarity : Very rare
10.75 g, 19-20 mm.

TYPE 32

SILVER RUPEE
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur
Mint-master : Mulla Huneef, *c* 1808-14
Coin name : *Teenboondia,Raitopka* or *Kullungidar*
Legend : As Type 2

32.1 Date : ---/51x, Rarity : Extremely rare
10.6 g, 19 mm.

احمد شاه بهادر
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک

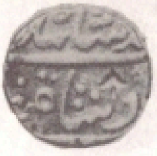
مانوس
میمنت
سنه ٥ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

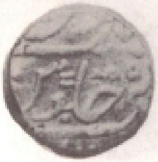
TYPE 33

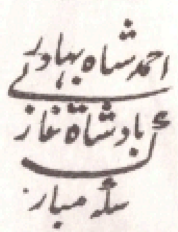
SILVER RUPEE
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur
Mint farmed to private contractor-Angnoolala in 1815. Coins struck during 1815-1816. This type was also struck for a few months during Parsoji II's reign.

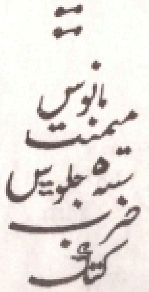
Coin name : *Doboondia*
Legend : As Type 2

33.1 Date : ---/5, Rarity : Rare
11.65 g, 19 mm.









TYPE 34

GOLD MOHUR
It is known that gold mohurs were struck at Nagpur by Raghuji II in 1808. These mohurs were not circulated in the market, but were worn around horses' necks.

A gold mohur exactly like Type 29 is reported to have been found, but this has not yet been examined by the author.

UNCERTAIN MINT

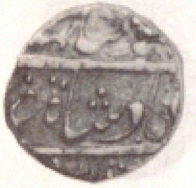
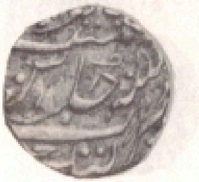
Mint name *Cuttack* کٹک

TYPE 35

SILVER RUPEE

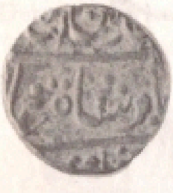
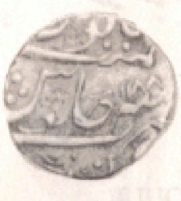
As Type 15
Known date : 1188/-.

35.1 Date : 1188/- (11 above and 88 below *sanah*), Rarity : Rare
11.2 g, 22 mm.

⁂

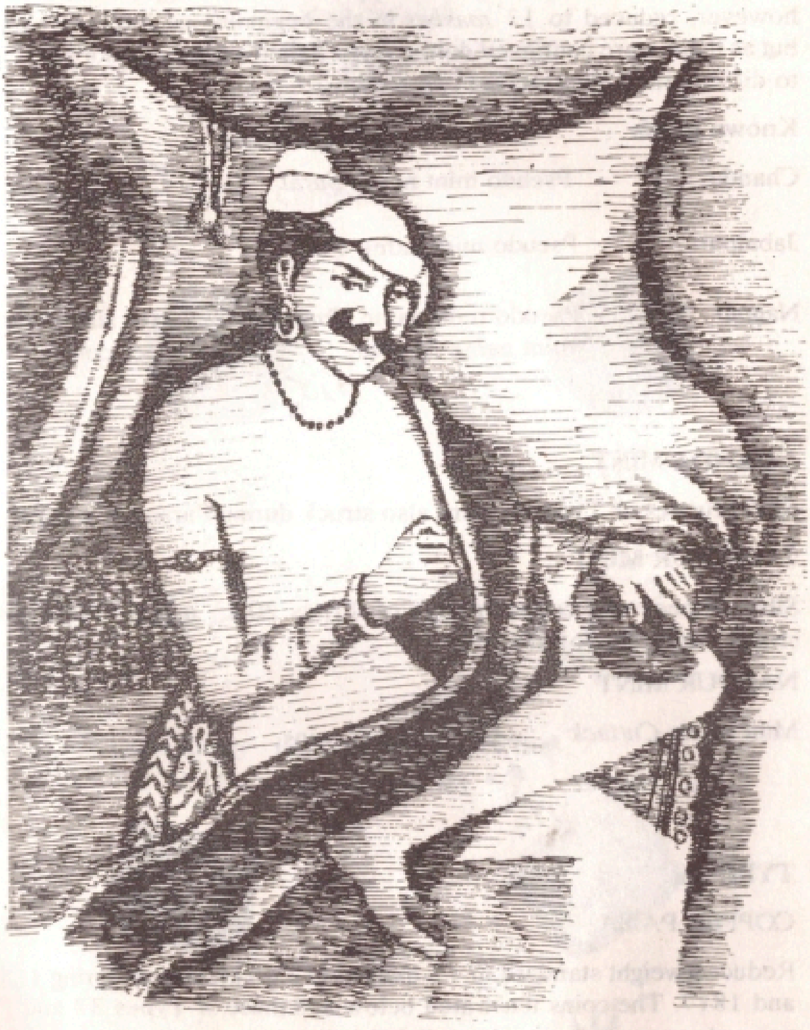
35.2 Date : 1188/- (1188 written in one line), Rarity : Scarce
11.2 g, 22 mm.

⁂

PARSOJI II

AD 1816-1817
AH 1231-1232



It is extremely difficult to attribute any coin to Parsoji II as he reigned for less than a year. At Nagpur, Angnoolala continued his contract up to the middle of 1816. But his coins cannot be separated as Raghuji's and Parsoji's. The same is the case with all the coins of Jabalpur and Chanda mints. Copper coins of Nagpur mint were, however, reduced to 12 *mashas* in the beginning of Parsoji's reign, but as these were continued during Appa Saheb's reign it is not possible to differentiate between the two reigns.

Known mints

Chanda - Pseudo mint name *Surat* سورت

Jabalpur - Pseudo mint name *Cuttack* کتک

Nagpur - Pseudo mint name *Cuttack* کتک for silver coins,
mint name *Nagpur* ناگپور for copper coins.

CHANDA MINT

Silver rupees of Type 18 were also struck during Parsoji II's reign.

JABALPUR MINT

Silver rupees and copper paisas of Types 20,21 and 22 were also struck during Parsoji II's reign.

NAGPUR MINT

Mint name *Cuttack* کتک for silver coins,
Nagpur ناگپور for copper coins.

TYPE 36

COPPER PAISA

Reduced weight standard of 12 *mashas* (12.48 g), struck during 1816 and 1817. The coins illustrated below and those of Types 37 and 38 were also struck during Appa Saheb's reign.

In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

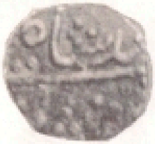
Legend : Obv : احمد شاه بادشاه

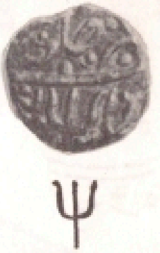
Ahmad Shah badshah

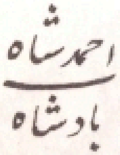
Rev : جلوس ناگپور

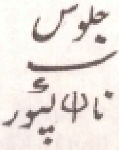
Julus Nagpur

36.1 No date, Rarity : Common
11.8 g, 18 mm.

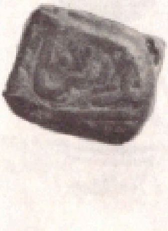


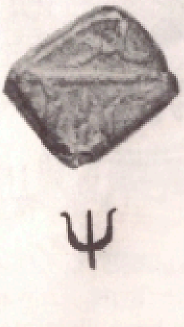



احمد شاه
بادشاه


جلوس
ناψپور

36.2 No date, Rarity : Rectangular, scarce thus.
12.5 g, 18 mm.

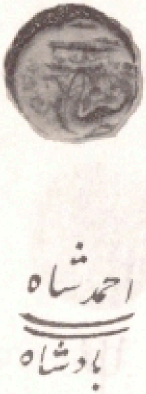


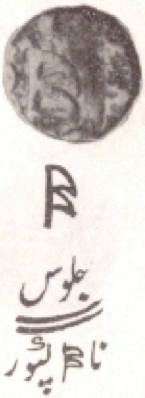


TYPE 37

COPPER PAISA
As type 36 but reduced weight of 12 *mashas* (12.48 g)
Note : These coins are milled on the edge.

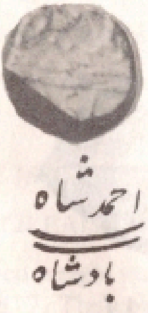
37.1 No. date, Rarity : Scarce
12.4 g, 17 mm.

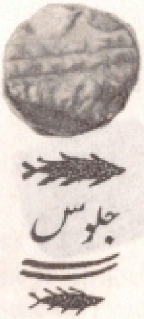

احمد شاه
بادشاه


جلوس
ناگپور

TYPE 38

COPPER PAISA
As Type 36
38.1 No Date, Rarity : Scarce.
11.2 g (cut), 17 mm.


احمد شاه
بادشاه

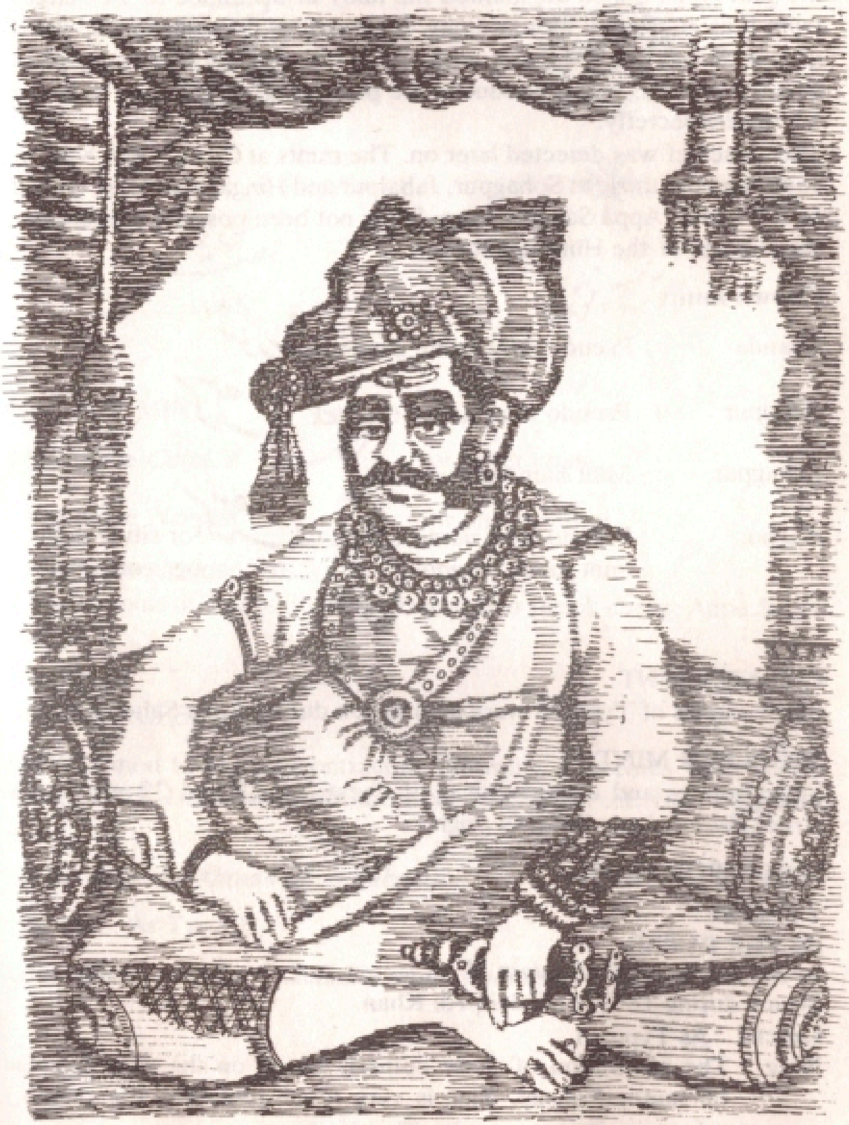


SILVER RUPEE

Silver rupee Type 33 was continued during Parsoji II's reign. This has already been illustrated.

APPA SAHEB

AD 1817-1818
AH 1232-1233



This coinage of Appa Saheb is much more interesting than that of his predecessor Parsoji. He started new rupee mints at Hinganghat and Sohagpur. At Nagpur, as Angnoolala refused to take up the contract of the mint, he gave it to Shivaram who had asisted Angnoolala in the job. Appa Saheb augmented the alloy in the rupee to 11 *ruttees* from 9 as he needed more money. It served his purpose but the coins do not reflect this reduction in the pure silver content as Angnoolala and Shivram has already reduced the proportion of impurity to about 14 *ruttees* secretly.

This mischief was detected later on. The mints at Chanda and Nagpur continued but those at Sohagpur, Jabalpur and Hinganghat were closed by the end of Appa Saheb's reign. It has not been possible to identify the coinage of the Hinganghat mint.

Known mints

Chanda	: Pseudo mint name *Surat* سورت
Jabalpur	: Pseudo mint name *Cuttack* کتک
Sohagpur	: Mint name uncertain
Nagpur	: Pseudo mint name *Cuttack* کتک for silver coins, mint name *Nagpur* ناگپور for copper coins.

CHANDA MINT

Silver rupees of Type 18 were also struck during Appa Saheb's reign.

JABALPUR MINT

Silver rupees and copper paisas of Types 20,21 and 22 were also struck during Appa Saheb's reign.

SOHAGPUR MINT

TYPE 39

SILVER RUPEE

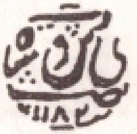
In the name of Shah Alam II

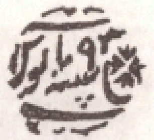
Struck during 1817 by Siddiq Ali Khan.

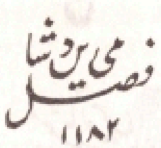
Legend : As Type 11.

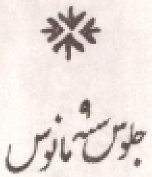
Note : The attribution of these coins is based on the sketch given by James Prinsep. This is very much tentative. For details, refer to mint notes under Chapter 3.

39.1 Date : 1182/9, Rarity : Uncertain
11 g approx., 18 mm.









NAGPUR MINT

Mint name *Cuttack* کتک for silver coins,

mint name *Nagpur* ناگپور for copper coins.

COPPER PAISA

Copper coins of Types 36 and 37 were also struck during Appa Saheb reign.

TYPE 40
SILVER RUPEE

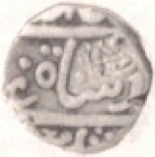
Mint farmed to private contractor Shivaram. The coins were struck during 1817-18, thus some of these coins fall under the reign of Raghuji III.

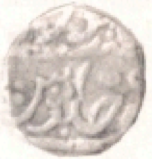
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

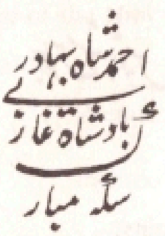
Legend : As Type 2

Coin name : *Naldar - Chandke undar boondkee*

40.1 Date : ---/5, Rarity : Scarce
10.65 g. 19 mm.



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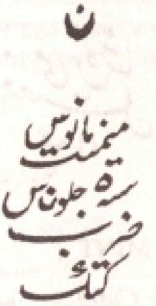
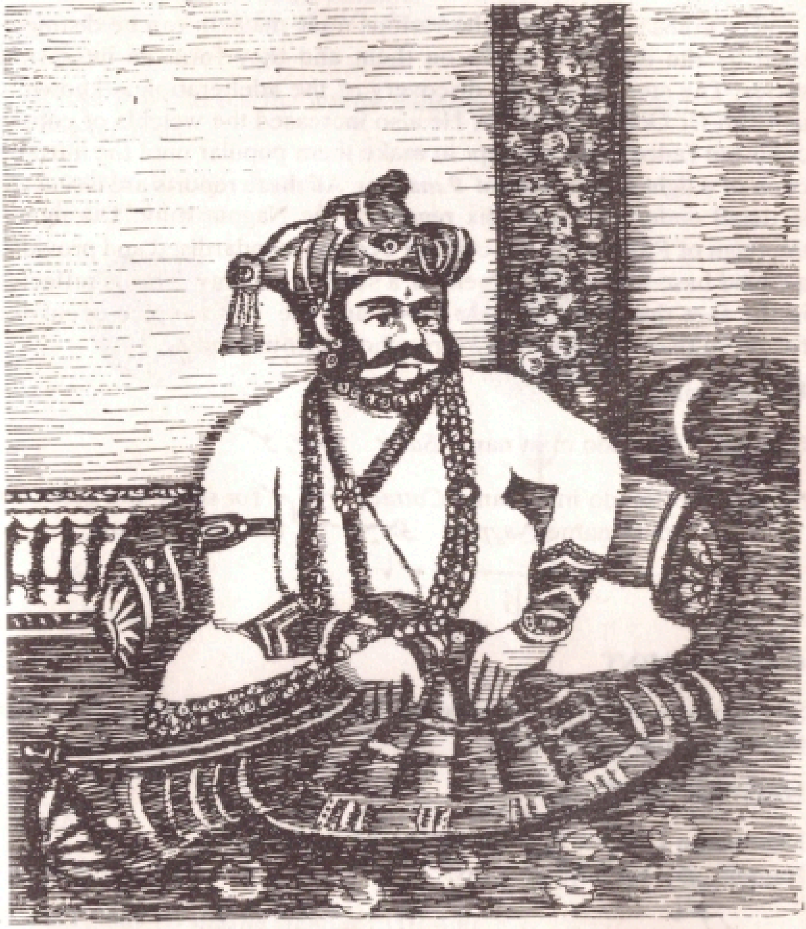
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک


ن
میمنت مانوس
سنه جلوس ۵
ضرب
کتک

RAGHUJI III

AD 1818 - 1853
AH 1233 - 1270



In the beginning of Raghuji III's reign, Shivaram, Ramjee Tanteea and Nursinghrao Ballal minted the rupees at Nagpur. They adulterated the coins to a considerable extent. This was discovered in 1820 and thereafter Dr Gordon, the British surgeon took charge of the mint.

The coins struck under the various mint-masters can be distinguished by the different marks on them and they form an interesting series. The story about the discovery of the adulteration is known to us from Dr Gordon's report. He also increased the weights of copper coins but failed in his attempt to make them popular until the introduction of a light weight coin of *9 mashas.* All these reports are discussed in detail under the Appendix regarding the Nagpur mint. During the reign of Raghuji III, the coinage became standardised and provided a sound base for the attainment of a stable economy. This is reflected in the fact that the *Zariputka* rupee and the *Trisooli* pice circulated for more than half a century throughout Central India.

Known mints

Chanda : Pseudo mint name *Surat* سورت

Nagpur : Pseudo mint name *Cuttack* کتک for silver and gold coins,
mint name *Nagpur* ناگپور for copper coins.

CHANDA MINT

Silver rupees of Type 18 were also struck during Raghuji III's reign for a short time until 1820.

NAGPUR MINT

Mint name *Cuttack* کتک for silver and gold coins,
Nagpur ناگپور for copper coins.

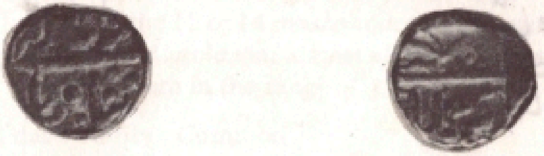
TYPE 41

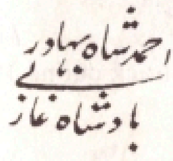
COPPER PAISA

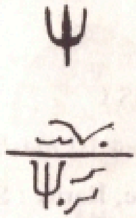
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur
Reduced weight standard of 10 *Mashas* (10.4 g) struck during 1818-19.

Legend : As Type 36 but the words *Bahadur* and *Ghazi* added. Crude execution.

41.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
10.2 g, 18 mm.







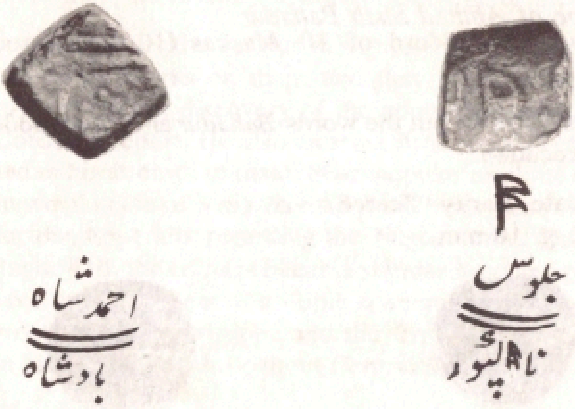
TYPE 42

COPPER PAISA

As Type 37 but 10 *masha* standard (10.4 g).
Struck during 1818-19

Note : These coins are always square in shape and are milled on the edges. Sometimes the milling is seen only on two out of the four edges.

42.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
10.02 g, 16 mm.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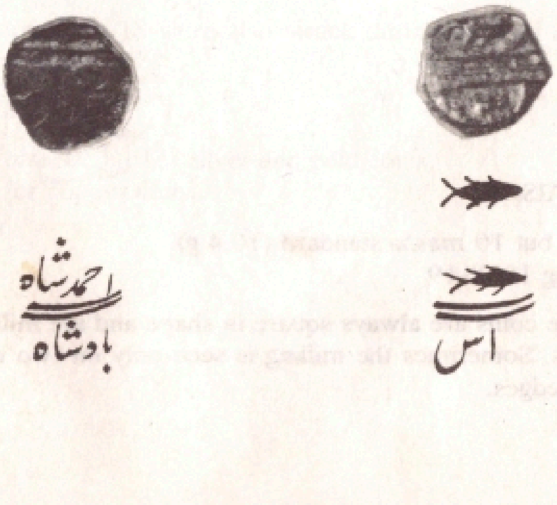
ناگپور

TYPE 43

COPPER PAISA

As Type 38 but 10 *masha* standard (10.4 g) struck during 1808-19.

43.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
10.3 g, 17 mm.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TYPE 44

COPPER PAISA

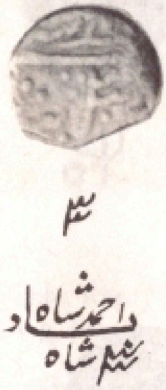
Increased weight standard of 14 *mashas*. Struck during 1820-23 by Dr Gordon, the British mint-master.

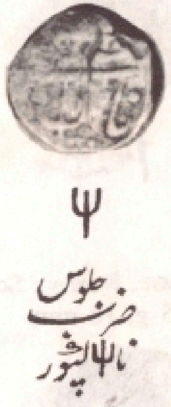
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur

Legend : As Type 36

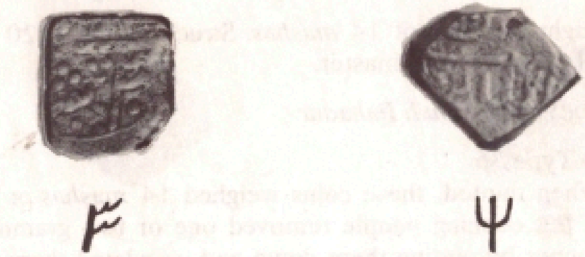
Note : When minted, these coins weighed 14 *mashas* or 14.56 g, but cunning people removed one or two grammes of copper by cutting them down and circulated them as the 12 *masha* coin. The general public made no distinction between the 12 or 14 *masha* coin and this business of cutting was so profitable that almost all the coins were cut. Today we find them in the range of 12.5 to 14 g.

44.1 No date, Rarity : Common
13.65 g, 20 mm.



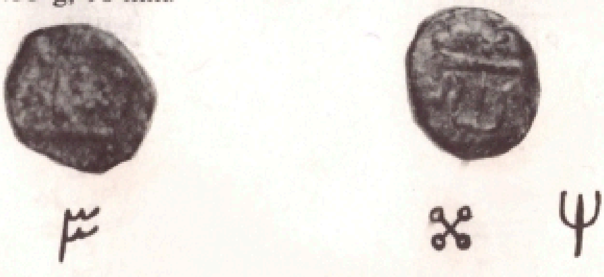


44.2 No date, Rarity : Square, scarce thus
13.5 g, (large cut on top), 23 mm.

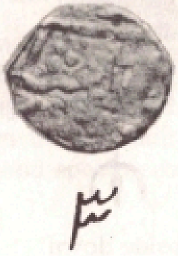


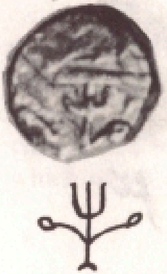
44.3 No date, Rarity : Scarce
13.15 g, 19 mm.

44.4 No date, Rarity : Scarce
13.55 g, 18 mm.

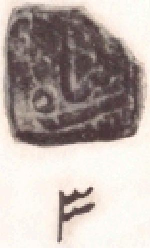


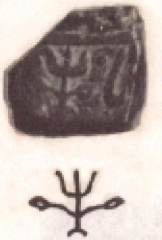
44.5 No date, Rarity : Scarce
12.65 g, (cut as well as double struck), 21 mm.



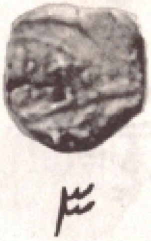


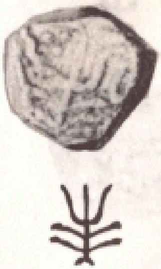
44.6 No date, Rarity : Scarce
13.55 g, (large cut on corner) 17-21 mm.



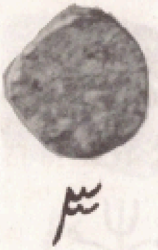


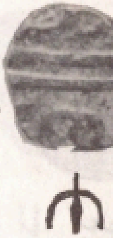
44.7 No date, Rarity : Scarce
12.4 g, (large cuts on corners) 19 mm.





44.8 No date, Rarity : Scarce
12.6 g, 19 mm.





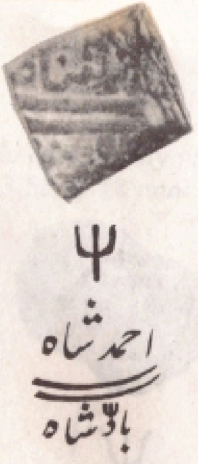
Upside down trident

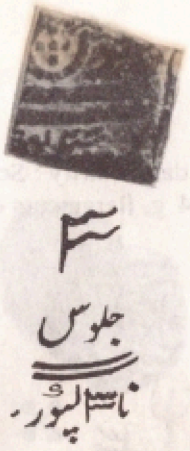
TYPE 45

COPPER PAISA

As Type 44.2 but seems to have been carefully struck. Symbols interchanged.

45.1 No date, Rarity : Very rare
14.45 g, 20 mm.





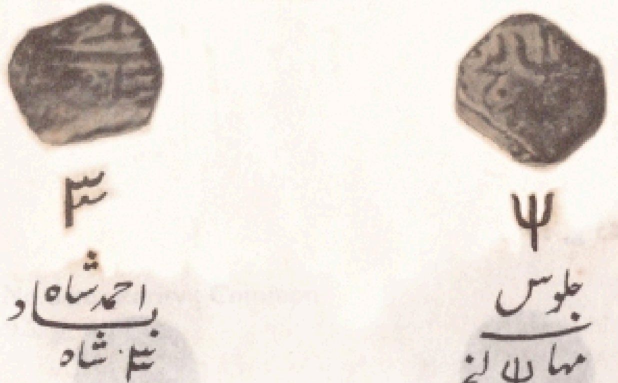
TYPE 46

COPPER PAISA

In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur.

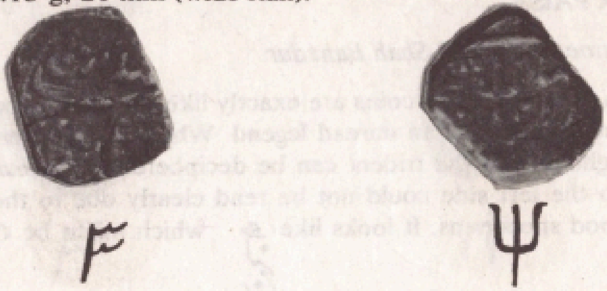
Note : In typology these coins are exactly like those of Type 44. But the reverse has an unread legend. Whereas the legend on the right side of the trident can be deciphered as *Maharaja,* that on the left side could not be read clearly due to the lack of good specimens. It looks like لنج which might be *Ganj,* probably a suffix of a suburb of Nagpur or some nearby town.

46.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
13.3 g, 19 mm (rectangular).



46.2 No date, Rarity : Rare
13.1 g, 19 mm (round).

46.3 No date, Rarity : Rare
13.15 g, 21 mm (wide flan).



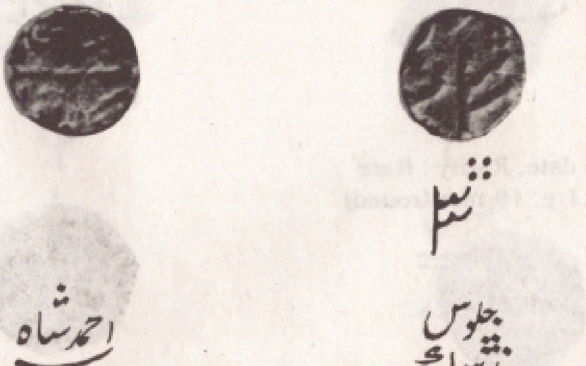
TYPE 47

COPPER PAISA

Reduced weight standard of 9 *mashas* (9.36 g), struck by Dr Gordon during 1823-24.
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur.

Legend : As Type 36.

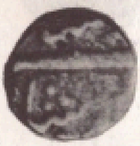
47.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
9.45 g, 17mm.

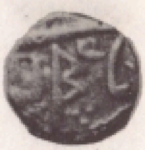


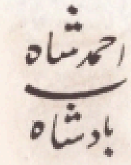
TYPE 48

As Type 47 but struck during 1825 by Dr Gordon and continued for a few years.

48.1 No Date, Rarity : Scarce
9.25 g, 18 mm.



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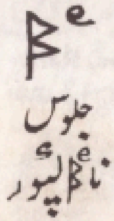
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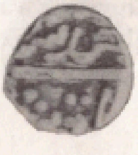
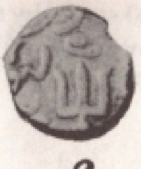
TYPE 49

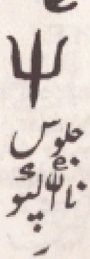
As Type 47 but struck during 1825 by Dr Gordon and continued up to the closure of the mint in 1854.

Coin name : *Tirsoolee*

49.1 No date, Rarity : Common
9.2 g, 18 mm.



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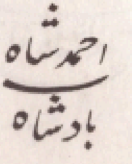
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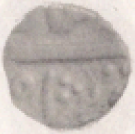
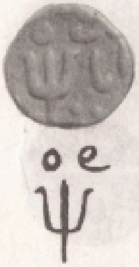
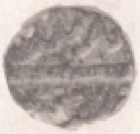
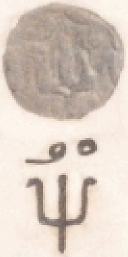
49.2 No date, Rarity : Common
9.4 g, 18 mm.





49.3 No date, Rarity : Common
8.35 g, 17 mm.





SILVER RUPEE

Coin Type 40 struck by the private contractor Shivaram was continued for a few months at the beginning of Raghuji III's reign. This has been already illustrated.

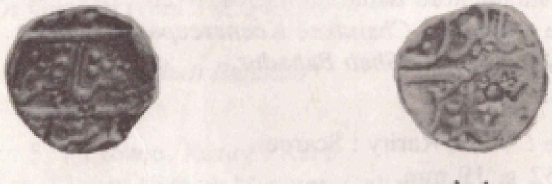
TYPE 50

SILVER RUPEE

Struck by Ramjee Tanteea during 1818-19
Coin name : *Naldar - khalee Chandkee*

In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur.
Legend : As Type 2

50.1 Date ---/5, Rarity : Scarce
10.55 g, 19 mm.



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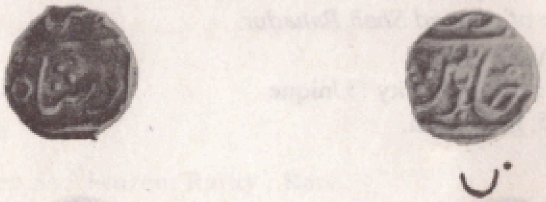
سنه ۵ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

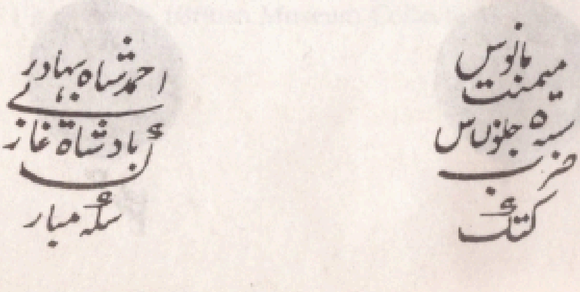
TYPE 51

SILVER 1/2 RUPEE

Struck by Nursinghrao Ballal during 1819-20.
Coin name : *Naldar - Chandkee Keenareepar boondkee*
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur.
Legend : As Type 2

51.1 Date : ---/(5) Rarity : Rare
5.2 g, 16 mm.




احمد شاه بهادر
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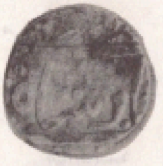
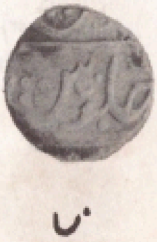
سکه مبارک
ن
مانوس
میمنت
سنه ۵ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

TYPE 52

SILVER RUPEE
Struck by Nursinghrao Ballal during 1819-20.
Coin Name : *Naldar - Chandkee Keenareepar boondkee*
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur.
Legend : As Type 2.

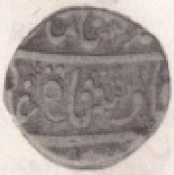
52.1 Date : ---/5, Rarity : Scarce
10.62 g, 19 mm.

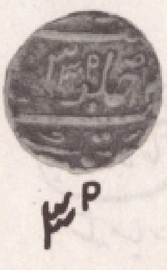




TYPE 53

SILVER RUPEE
Struck by Captain Pew under Dr Gordon during 1820
Coin name : *Zariputka*
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur.
Legend : As Type 2
53.1 Date : ---/5, Rarity : Unique
10.85 g, 20 mm.

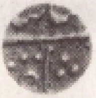


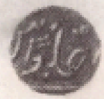


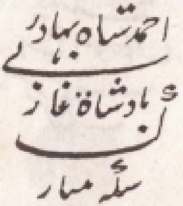
TYPE 54

SILVER 1/8 RUPEE
Struck by Dr Gordon from 1820 to 1825.
Coin name : *Zariputka*
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur
Legend : As Type 2

54.1 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Rare
1.38 g, 12 mm (British Museum Collection).



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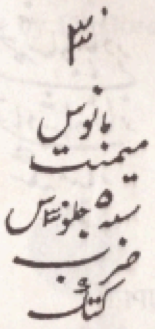
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک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سنه ۵ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

TYPE 55

SILVER 1/4 RUPEE
As Type 54

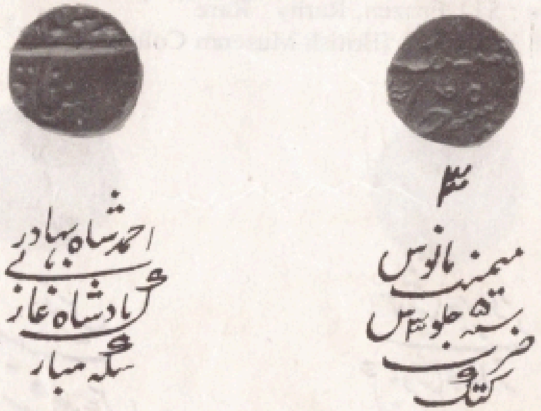
55.1 Date : 511 Frozen; Rarity : Rare
2.71 g, 15 mm, (British Museum Collection).

TYPE 56

SILVER 1/2 RUPEE

As Type 54

56.1 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Rare
5.39 g, 17 mm (British Museum Collection).

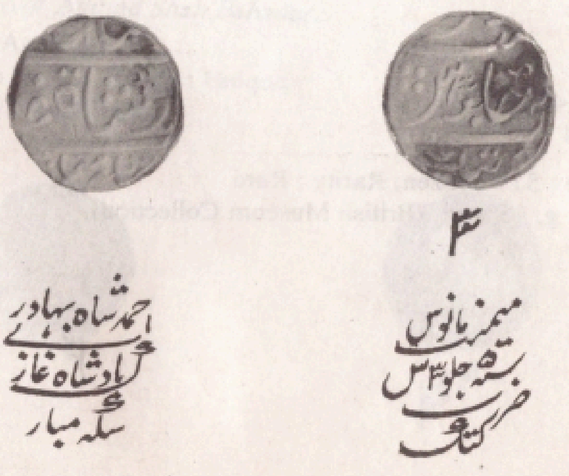

احمد شاه بهادر
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک
میمنت مانوس
سنه ۵ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

TYPE 57

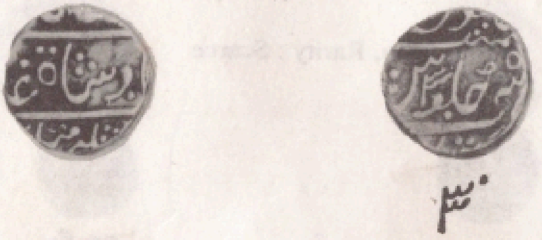
SILVER RUPEE

As Type 54

57.1 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Scarce
10.9 g, 23 mm.


احمد شاه بهادر
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک
میمنت مانوس
سنه ۵ جلوس
ضرب
کتک

57.2 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Scarce
10.6 g, 19 mm.

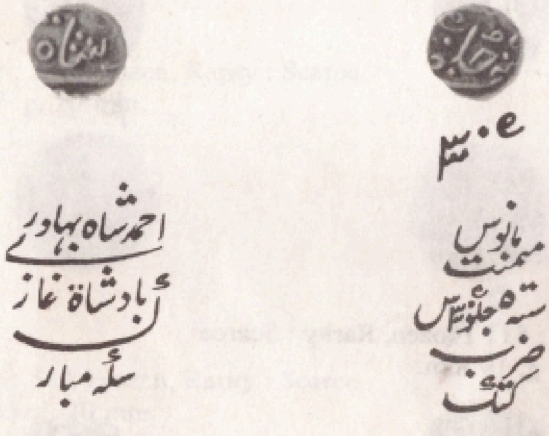


TYPE 58

SILVER 1/8 RUPEE

As Type 54, *e* added over the flag. Struck by Dr Gordon in 1825 and continued up to 1854.
Coin name : *Zariputka bootta*

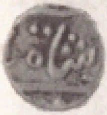
58.1 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Scarce
1.22 g, 7 mm.

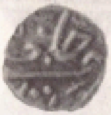

احمد شاه بهادر
بادشاه غازی
سکه مبارک
مانوس
میمنت
سنه ۵ جلوس
ضرب
کٹک

TYPE 59

SILVER 1/4 RUPEE
As Type 58

59.1 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Scarce
2.48 g, 13 mm.

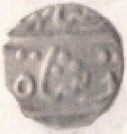


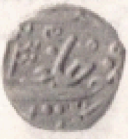


TYPE 60

SILVER 1/2 RUPEE
As Type 58

60.1 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Scarce
5.35 g, 16 mm.

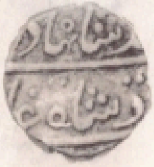


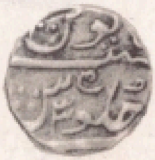


TYPE 61

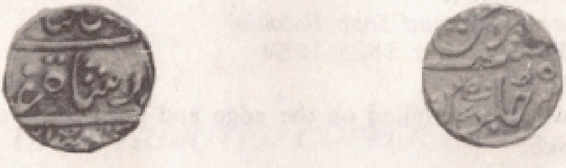
SILVER RUPEE
As Type 58

61.1 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Scarce
10.7 g, 19 mm.



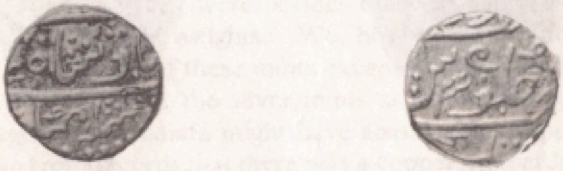


61.2 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Scarce
10.78 g, 19 mm.



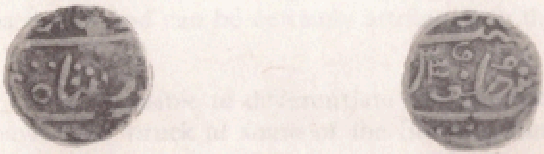
۳۴۰

61.3 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Common
10.72 g, 19 mm.



۳۰۴

61.4 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Scarce
10.7 g, 20 mm.



۳۶۰

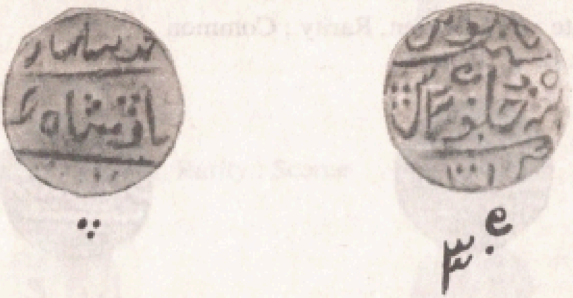
61.5 Date : 511 Frozen, Rarity : Scarce
10.65 g, 20 mm.

۳۴۰۰

TYPE 62

GOLD 1/2 MOHUR
In the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur
Struck by Dr Gordon *c* 1825-1854
Legend : As Type 2
Note : This coin is milled on the edge and is possibly a *Nazarana* strike.

62.1 Date : ---/5, Rarity : Unique
5.55 g. approx, 24-25 mm.



UNATTRIBUTED COPPER COINS

We know that copper coins were minted at several places during the Bhonsla rule. Dr Gordon tells us that, the pice current in the Nagpore territories before this period (AD 1810) were all made in Berar. They were manufactured at Dharwa weighing 16 mashas, at Akot weighing 14, at Ellichpur and Omraotty weighing 20 and at Betul weighing 12 mashas. They were besides made at many other places in Berar and of different weights. We, however, have been unable to attribute coins to any of these mints except Ellichpur and Omraotty (Amravati). Furthermore, the silver mints at Boree Pownee, Hinganghat, Sohagpur and Chanda might have also struck copper coins. It is also known from records that there was a copper mint at Jalgaon-Jamod coins of which were known as *Jamodie paisa.*

A great number of unattributed copper coins are found in Vidarbha (Berar) and adjoining areas. After examining thousands of coins, the author could determine that certain particular types come only from the Vidarbha region and can be certainly attributed to the Bhonslas of Nagpur.

Though it is not possible to differentiate between them by mint, they must have been struck at some of the Bhonsla mints referred to in the preceding paragraphs. It is also not possible to attribute these coins to different Bhonsla rulers as there is nothing on them to enable us to do that excepting a few enigmatic dates. The only thing that can be said is that the coins are undoubtedly of Bhonsla origin.

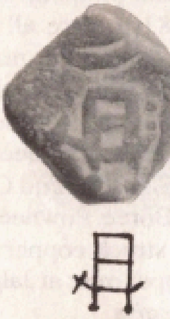
A selection from these coins is discussed hereafter. Many other minor varieties exist, but they appear to be derived from one or other of these major types.

CATEGORY I

COINS HAVING DIFFERENT MARKS AND ILLEGIBLE LEGEND

TYPE 63

63.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
19.15 g, 20 mm.

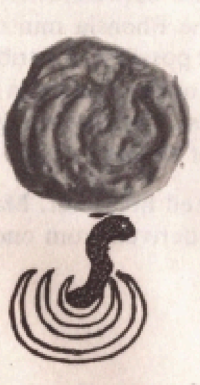


Ladder

Crude legend.

TYPE 64

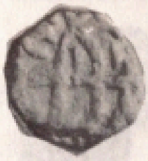
64.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
20.2 g, 22 mm.

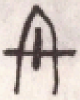


Snake in charmers box

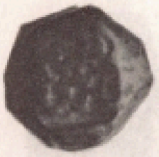
TYPE 65

65.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
15.15 g, 18 mm.





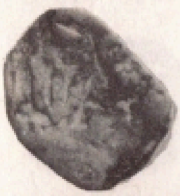
Dagger

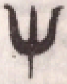


Crude Legend

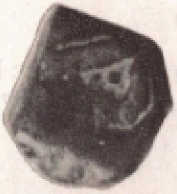
TYPE 66

66.1 No date, Rarity : Common
20.2 g, 22 mm.





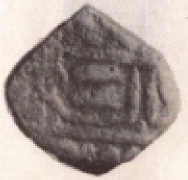
Trident



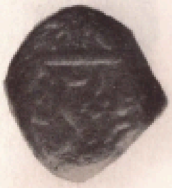
Crude Legend.

TYPE 67

67.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
17.15 g, 17 x 21 mm.

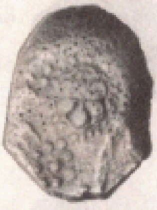


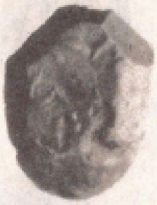
Padooka

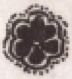


TYPE 68

68.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
18.9 g, 25 x 20 mm.



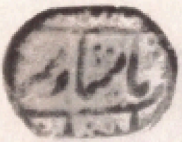


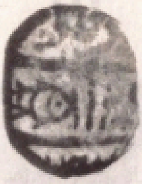


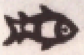
Flower

TYPE 69

69.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
17.85 g, 25 x 17 mm.



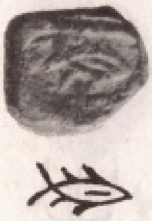




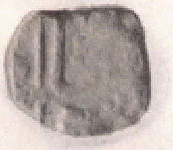
Fish

TYPE 70

70.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
10.3 g, 19 mm.
(Possibly an imitation of Type 38)



Fish

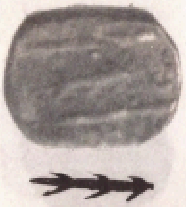


Crude *Shah*

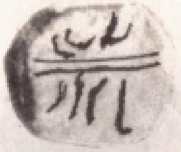
TYPE 71

Note : This type is found near Akola, thus it might have been struck at a nearby mint, probably Akot or Jalgaon-Jamod.

71.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
19 g approx., 23 mm.



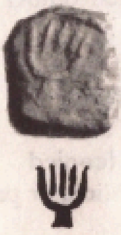
Long Fish



Crude legend

TYPE 72

72.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
9.5 g, 15 mm.

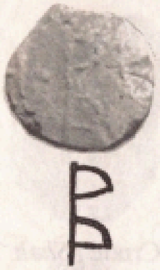


Palm

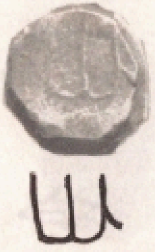
Crude legend

TYPE 73

73.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
12.35 g, 18 mm.



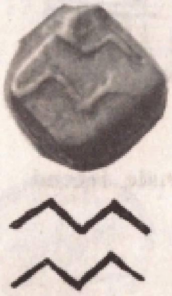
Flag



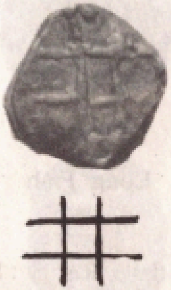
Mark like English W

TYPE 74

74.1 No date, Rarity : Common
14.17 g, 19 mm.



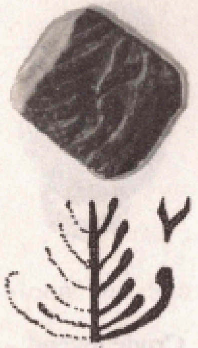
Wavy lines,
possibly a
representation or
mountains



Cross lines,
part of some
legend (copied
from Ellichpur paisas)

TYPE 75

75.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
15.15 g, 18 mm.

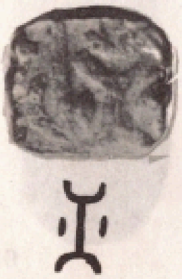


Part of a tree

Crude legend

TYPE 76

76.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
18.3 g, 20 mm.

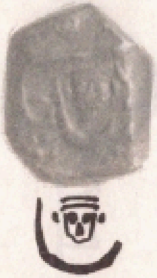


Dumb-bell

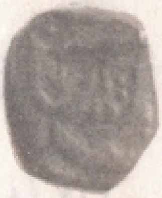
Crude legend,
possibly *Shah*

TYPE 77

77.1 No date, Rarity : Very rare
23 mm

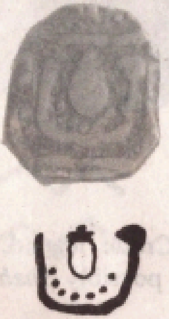


Human face encircled by a snake or the word *Shah*

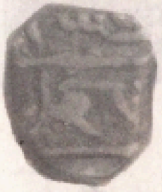


Crude legend

77.2 No date, Rarity : Very Rare
23 mm.



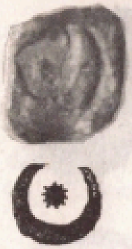
Human face encircled by a snake Probable representation of *Shiva lingam*.



Retrograde *Julus* and crude legend

TYPE 78

78.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
12.55 g, 13 mm.

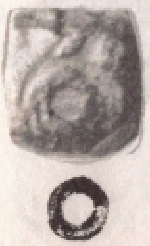


Moon and Star

Crude legend

TYPE 79

79.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
12.2 g, 18 mm.

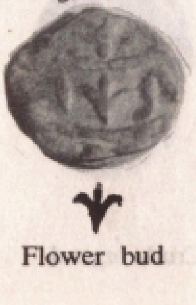


Circle

Crude legend

TYPE 80

80.1 No date, Rarity : Common
17.5 g, 22 mm.

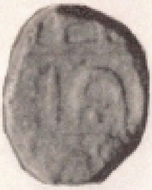


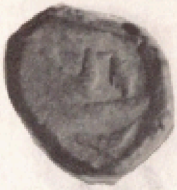
Flower bud

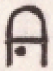
Crude legend

TYPE 81

81.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
16.45 g, 22 mm.





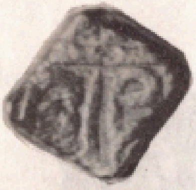


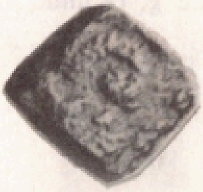
Mark like English A

Crude legend

TYPE 82

82.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
14.65 g, 18 mm.



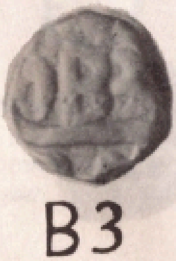


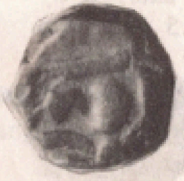
BIB

Mark like English BIB

TYPE 83

83.1 No date, Rarity : Scarce
17.5 g, 21 mm.





B3

Mark like English B3

Crude legend

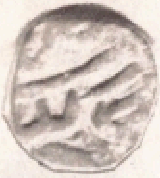
CATEGORY II

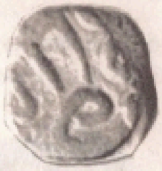
COINS HAVING NO MARKS BUT CRUDE ILLEGIBLE LEGEND OR DESIGN

Note : Coins of this category are found in large quantities in Amravati, Chanda, Nagpur and Yavatmal District.

TYPE 84

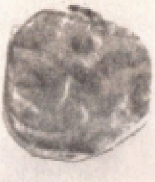
84.1 No date, Rarity : Common
15.95 g, 20 mm.

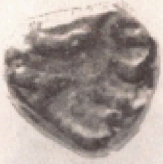




TYPE 85

85.1 No date, Rarity : Common
17.7 g, 19 mm.

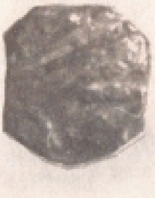


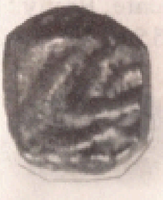


Crude legend

TYPE 86

86.1 No date, Rarity : Common
16.65 g, 17 mm.

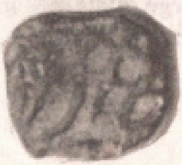


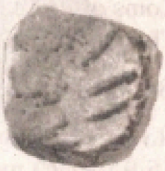


Possibly *Shah*

TYPE 87

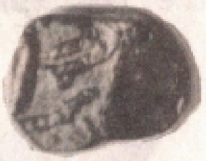
87.1 No date, Rarity : Common
14.9 g, 20 mm.

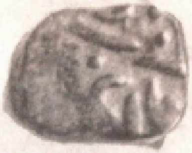




TYPE 88

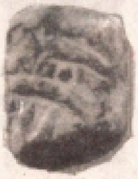
88.1 No date, Rarity : Common
16.65 g, 20 mm.

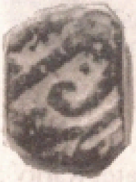




TYPE 89

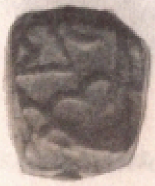
89.1 No date, Rarity : Common
13.43 g. 19 mm.

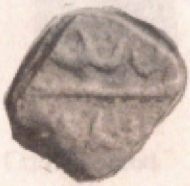




TYPE 90

90.1 No date, Rarity : Common
17.55 g, 19 mm.





TYPE 91

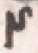
91.1 No date, Rarity : Common
15.85 g, 19 mm.

TYPE 92

92.1 No date, Rarity : Common
14.05 g, 15 mm.

TYPE 93

93.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
14.95 g, 18 mm.



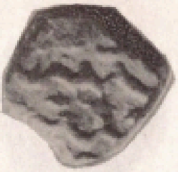
Mark resembling digit 4

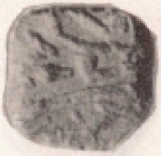
TYPE 94

94.1 No date, Rarity : Common
16.2 g, 17 mm.

TYPE 95

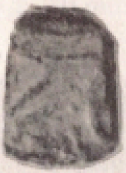
95.1 No date, Rarity : Common
12.35 g, 18 mm.

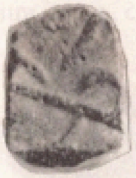




TYPE 96

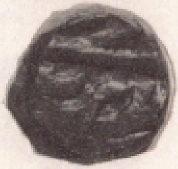
96.1 No date, Rarity : Common
14 g. 19 mm.

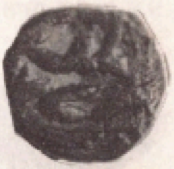




TYPE 97

97.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
20.25 g, 20 mm.





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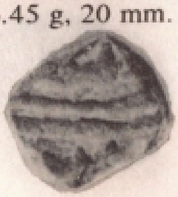
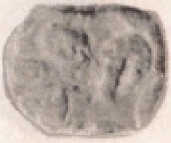
27
Alike Chanda
rupees

TYPE 98

98.1 No date, Rarity : Common
16.45 g, 20 mm.



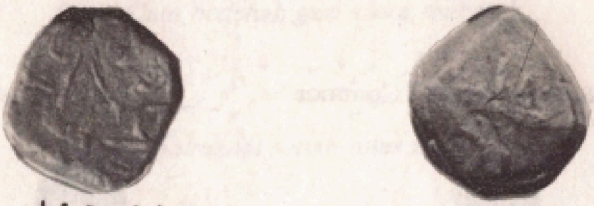


TYPE 99

99.1 No date, Rarity : Common
15.15 g, 18 mm.

TYPE 100

100.1 No date, Rarity : Common
18.9 g, 22 mm.



४८४

TYPE 101

101.1 No date, Rarity : Common
16.15 g, 22 mm.

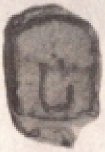
TYPE 102

102.1 No date, Rarity : Common
16.35 g, 18 mm.

TYPE 103

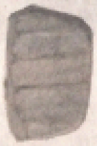
Note : These coins of light weight are found in hoards in Yavatmal district. Some of them might have been struck at the nearby mint of Darwah.

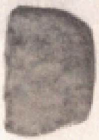
103.1 No date, Rarity : Common
5.5 g, 19 mm.



4

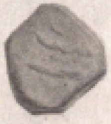
103.2 No date, Rarity : Common
7 g, 17 mm.

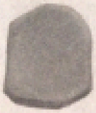




Parallel lines

103.3 No date, Rarity : Common
5.5 g, 13 mm.





شا

Sha

Blank

CATEGORY III

COINS HAVING LEGIBLE PERSIAN LEGEND

Note : Mostly in the name of Shah Alam II, these coins and their crude copies, bear jumbled or illegible mint names. It seems the mint names and the dates are imaginations of the die-cutters.

TYPE 104

In the name of Shah Alam II

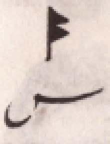
Legend : Obv : شاه عالم بادشاه غازی سکہ مبارک

Shah Alam badshah gazi sikka mubarak

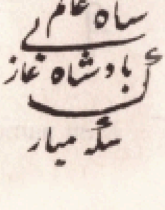
Rev : مانوس میمنت سنه جلوس ضرب

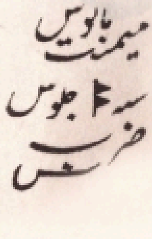
Manus maimanat sanah julus zarb xxx

104.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
15.3 g, 21 mm.

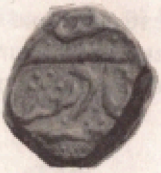


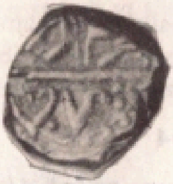
Mint name

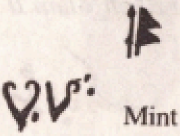




104.2 No date, Rarity : Scarce
17.25 g, 19 mm.

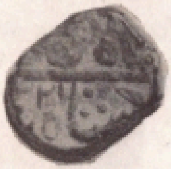


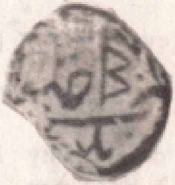


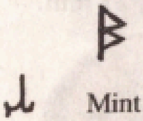


Mint name

104.3 Date : (1)221-; Rarity : Rare
15.35 g, 20 mm.

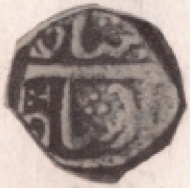


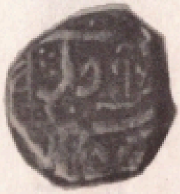


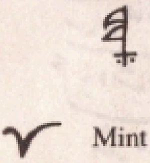


Mint name

104.4 Date : ....6/96, Rarity : Rare
18.25 g, 20 mm.

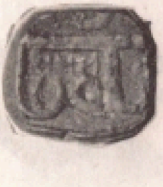


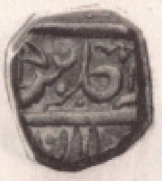




Mint name

104.5 Date : 1606/-, (Retrograde 1202/-), Rarity : Rare
17.7 g, 20 mm.



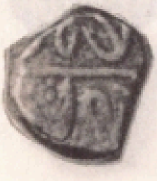


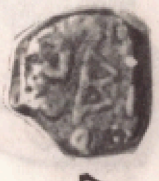
اان Mint name

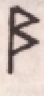
شاه عالم
بادشاه غازی ۱۲۰۲
سکه مبارک

مانوس
میمنت
سنه جلوس
ضرب
- - - - - -

104.6 Date : xxx 6/-, Rarity : Common
16.4 g, 17 mm.



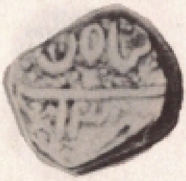


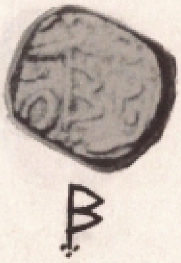


Retrograde legend

Retrograde legend

104.7 Date : xx 13/20, Rarity : Common
17.9 g, 20 mm.





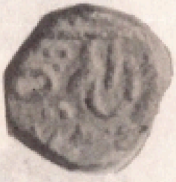
+ over *he* of *Shah*
Sanah added at bottom

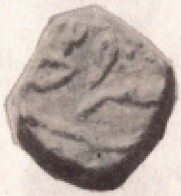
TYPE 105

In the name of Shah Alam II

Legend : Part of the usual couplet as Type 11

105.1 Date :..../29, Rarity : Rare
18.2 g, 20 mm.





فضل اله حامی
کشور

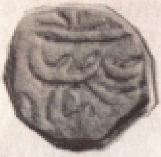
۲۹
سنه جلوس

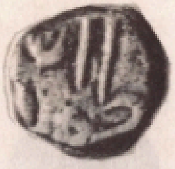
TYPE 106

In the name of Shah Alam II

Legend : Uncertain.

106.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
15.7 g, 18 mm.


شاه عالم
شاه



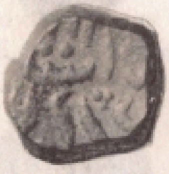
Zafarabad ?

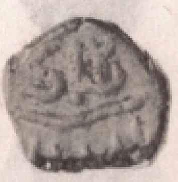
TYPE 107

In the name of Shah Alam II

Legend : (*Shah Alam*) *badshah gazi* on both sides.

107.1 No date, Rarity : Common
18.15 g, 21 mm.




غازی
بادشاه

TYPE 108

Note : Crude copies of Ellichpur paisas. These coins might have been copied at any mint near Ellichpur, i.e., in Berar or in Madhya Pradesh (for instance Betul). It is also likely that some of these were actually struck at the Ellichpur mint.

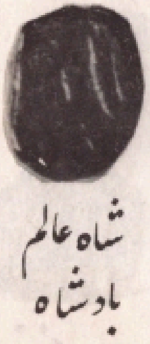
Legend : Obv : شاه عالم بادشاه

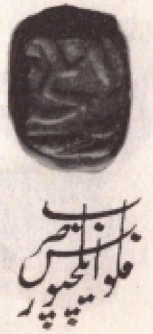
Shah Alam badshah

Rev : فلوس ضرب ایلچپور

Fulus zarb Ellichpur

108.1 No date, Rarity : Common
17.7 g, 21 mm.





108.2 No date, Rarity : Common
16.55 g, 20 mm.

Crude execution

Crude execution

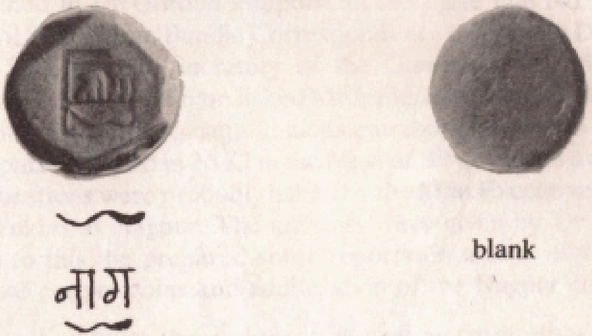
CATEGORY IV

COINS HAVING LEGIBLE NAGARI LEGEND

TYPE 109

Legend : *Nag* for snake or possibly for *Nagpur*

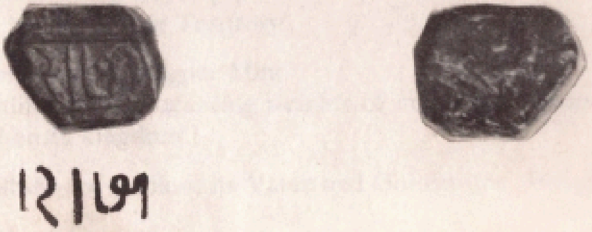
109.1 No date, Rarity : Unique
12 g approx. 21 mm.



TYPE 110

Legend : *Raj*, possibly a part of *Maharaja.*

110.1 No date, Rarity : Rare
16.65 g, 19 mm.



Appendix

Records of the Nagpur Mint

The records of the activities of the mint at Nagpur are scattered in the contemporary British correspondence, preserved in the *Bundle Correspondence Records, Nagpur Residency Records, Jubbelpore Divisional Records* and *Berar Records.* The major part of the records is contained in Dr Gordon's reports in the Case File No.1 of 1823, C. P. Civil Secretariat, Bundle Correspondence of Finance Department. George Swinton, the Secretary of the Government in the Political Department at Fort William asked Mr Jenkins, the Resident of Nagpur to submit a report on coinage. Jenkins entrusted this job to Dr Gordon who prepared a report in 1823 in the form of 30 questions and answers. These questions were probably asked by the Mint Executive at Calcutta or Mr Jenkins at Nagpur. The answers were given by Dr Gordon. In addition to this, he prepared some reports on assays of silver coins, weights of copper coins and adulteration of the Nagpur coinage.

A selection from these records as well as from other documents in Persian and Modi scripts is reproduced here. The language and the method of presentation of the original records is so very interesting that any attempt to edit is likely to reduce their value. They are therefore presented, as far as possible, in the original form hereinafter under appropriate sections. The arrangement has been made so as to give it a historical continuity.

Appendices

1. Mints in the Nagpur Territory.
2. Beginning of the Nagpur Mint.
   (Including details regarding weights of coins and copper mints in the Bhonsla kingdom.)
3. Availability of Bullion, its Value and Goldsmiths' Weights.
4. Process of Coining.
5. Income and expenditure of the Mint.
   (Including details of mint-masters' contracts.)
6. Types of Nagpur Rupees, their Values and the Rates of Batta.
   (Including Mr Lushington's letter regarding mint-masters and their marks.)

7. Mint Committee Report.
8. Assay Report.
9. The Great Adulteration.
10. Weights of the Copper Coins.
11. Demand for Expansion and Machine-struck Coinage.
12. Closure of the Mint.

Appendix – 1

Mints in the Nagpur Territory

C. P. Civil Secretariat, *Bundle Correspondence*, Finance Department, Case File No. 1 of 1823 (hereinafter referred to as *Bundle Correspondence Records).*

"Mint Questions and Answers

Question 1 : What are or have been the mints in the Nagpore country ?

Answer : There is at present only one mint in the Nagpore territories (viz.) the mint in the city. There have been at different times before mints at the following places.

At Chanda, at Hinganghat, at Sohagpoor, and at Boree Pownee.

The mint at Chanda was established a very long time ago and is said to have been coeval with the Nagpore mint. It was abolished in 1820.

The mint at Hinganghat was established by Nana Sahib, brother to the late Raghojee about 18 years ago. It was carried on for a year or two and then stopped by the Rajah's desire. Appa Sahib reopened it during the short time he was on the musnud, The mint at Sohagpoor was established by Seedeeck alee Khan, in 1217 fussilee. Seedeeck alee stated that about thirteen lacks of rupees were ordered and that they coined only $8^1/_2$ lacks of these. But it is believed this statement is far from being true as to the quantity of rupees. (This however scarcely deserved the name of the mint, as little or no bullion was melted. On about nine lacks of Adoni rupees, Nagpore stamp was imposed and they were distributed to the troops as Nagpore rupees).

The mint at Bori Pownee was established by a Sonar about forty years ago by permission of Dewajee Pundit, commonly known by the name Chor Choureewalla. On his own authority about 2$^1/_2$ lacks of rupees were made in it when it was suppressed by the order of the Sirkar".

Appendix – 2

Beginning of the Nagpur Mint

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 22.

"Question 22 : Was there a mint in the time of Gonds at Nagpore ? Give general history of the Nagpore mint from its first establishment to the present day.

Answer : The mint is said to have been established at Nagpore about 170[1] years ago. Before that period Cowries and pieces of pure silver circulated instead of regular coins. It is reported that about the above period, on the Emperor of Delhi demanding a payment in money from Chand Sultan the son of Bukht Buland, the Rajah pleaded his inability from the want of a mint to furnish it; on which the Emperor Mohommad Shaw authorized the establishment of one. The name of Mohommad Shaw was impressed on the coins during the continuance of the Gond dynasty. The weights and purity of the rupees coined first by Chand Sultan weighed 86 ruttees of pure silver. On this country being conquered by Raghojee, the name of Ahmad Shaw was impressed on the coinage and the quantity of alloy in each rupee was increased by one ruttee the weight remaining as before 86 ruttees.

Jonohjee decreased the weight of the rupee to 85 ruttees and increased the quantity of alloy by one ruttee more, so that it consist of 79 ruttees of pure silver and 6 of alloy. Mudhajee continued the currency as above for some years and afterwords altered it making the weight of the rupee 83$^1/_2$ ruttees and containing 76$^1/_2$ ruttees of pure silver with 7 ruttees of alloy. For some time he preserved the quantity of alloy at 7 ruttees but subsequently increased it first to 8 then to 9 ruttees.

Assays of the coin were first introduced in the year 1213 fussilee by a Sonar named Peearee Lal. It was formerly customary to judge the quality of silver by boring a hole in it and subjecting it to the action of fire. Appa sahib established the present rates of eleven ruttees of alloy and 72 of pure silver."

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[1] This appears to be a mistake for 100.

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 16.

"Question 16 : What is the system of the copper coinage, its defects and advantages ?

Answer : The mint for copper coinage was first established at Nagpore in 1221 fussilee, the Pice current in the Nagpore territories before this period were all made in Berar. They were manufactured at Dharwa weighing 16 mashas, at Akot weighing 14, at Ellichpore and Omraotty weighing 20 and at Betul weighing 12 mashas. They were besides made at many other places in Berar and of different weights. Rabra Deshmookh brother to Gumbherjee Deshmookh first persuaded Raghojee to establish a pice mint. They were made weighing 19 mashas each and all the Berar pice found in the country were called in. The mint was kept on amanee[2] system and a duty levied at first of two pice on every hundred manufactured and subsequently in the same year this duty was increased to five percent. In 1225 fussilee the old pice were called in and the new pice made weighing 15¹/₂ mashas each. Appa Sahib afterwards made a new coinage in 1226 fussilee weighing 12 mashas each. The duty of 5 percent was continued as before. The pice have been since changed in 1228 fussilee to 10 mashas, in 1230 fussilee to 14 mashas and in 1233 fussilee to 16 mashas ....".

Appendix – 3

Availability of Bullion, its Value and Goldsmiths' Weights

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 27.

"Question 27 : In what shape is silver bullion to be obtained at Nagpore, in the greatest quantity and of what degree of fineness ?

Answer : Bullion is to be procured from Sahookars but not in any considerable quantity. These people rather import it from Berar and Bombay or they prepare it from silver ornaments etc. which they purchase at a low price from poor people or others. Sahookars state that the difference of refining silver to the standard of Nagpore coinage by the mixture of lead (cupellation) or by addition of pure to impure silver may be estimated at about one quarter percent in favour of the later mode. If however there should be a great excess of alloy, cupellation must necessarily be had recourse to form the difficulty of finding a sufficient quantity of purified silver to mix with the impure.

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[2] This means that the copper was brought by the merchants for coining.

The best quality of silver to be purchased in Nagpore generally contains two ruttees of alloy in each rupee weight".

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 23

"Question 23 : What coins etc. are most advantageously recoined at the mint ?

Answer : Nagpore rupees are generally manufactured from bullion. It is customary however when this is of a worse quality than the standard either to add refined silver or rupees of a better quality. The most useful rupees in this respect are of course those containing least alloy and those most readily procurable are the Arcoti, containing 83 ruttees of silver and four of alloy, the Delhi Soortee rupees containing 85 ruttees of silver and two of alloy.The Benares rupees containing 83 ruttees of silver and two of alloy. The Murshidabad rupee containing as above and the Furrukabad rupees containing 83 ruttees of silver and four of alloy. Should the melted bullion after the above addition be found in assay better than the standard, a few Hyderabad rupees are frequently added to reduce it as containing more alloy".

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 25

"Question 25 : Since the abolition of Chanda and other mints, has the quantity of silver bullion brought to Nagpore mint increased ?

Answer : The quantity of silver bullion brought to the Nagpore mint since 1229 fussilee, the year in which the mint was abolished at Chanda has decreased greatly in consequence of the superior quality of the coining affording much less profit than before to people bringing bullion. The high rates of exchange have also had a great effect for the last two or three years in stopping coinage at Nagpore. When Sahookars cannot send away their bullion in tolerable terms in the shape of rupees by means of hoondees, they have little object in paying mint expenses of coining it. Ceteris Paribus, the abolition of the mint at Chanda no doubt would have increased the quantity of bullion brought to the mint at Nagpore and its not having actually been productive of this effect is to be satisfactorily accounted for in the above manner."

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 26.

"Question 26 : Is there any difference between the price of silver bullion in the market and the mint price that will on equal number of Nagpore rupees in the market purchase more or less bullion there than is required to produce the same number of rupees at the mint ?

Answer : Silver is somewhat cheaper in the market than in the mint otherwise there would be no bullion brought by merchants to be coined. If bullion is brought by judgement and carried to mint to be converted into rupees, there is a profit at present after paying all expenses of about 4 to 5 annas percent.

The estimate is made as follows — Let 100 rupees weight of the best procurable silver be taken containing 2 ruttees of alloy in each rupee, and 900 ruttees of alloy. The weight of above mixture which on being melted will be of the standard quality, is 111 Rs. but in this quantity a loss of ·1 rupee is sustained from oxidisation or burning. The produce therefore is only 110 rupees from which sum must be deducted the following items of expenses :

	Rs.	a.	p.
Price of Bullion	108	–	
Price of Alloy	–	3	–
Mint duties at 1$^{1}/_{2}$%	1	10	–
Total . .	109	13	–

thus leaving a profit to the merchant of 3 annas to which is to be added two annas more allowed by the Iarry burrys for the ashes or oxidized metals".

Bundle Correspondence Records, Abstract of Question and Answers 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Abstract of Questions 18, 19, 20 and 21 : What are the relative values of silver and gold, copper and silver at the present day in the market ? Does this fluctuate ? What is the table of Goldsmiths' weights ?

Abstract of Answers : A tolah of the best gold costs 19$^{1}/_{2}$ rupees in the market, a tolah of pure silver costs 1 rupee five annas and four pie, but the silver of this description is with difficulty to be met with, a pice of the present coinage weighs one tolah and a third and at the market rate of copper is worth about three pies, one quarter of an anna.

The price of the best gold Sahookars say has never fallen below 17 rupees a tolah, or risen beyond 20 rupees within the last 20 years. Copper has varied from 16 to 20 ruppes per maund. Silver may be considered the standard of value of the other metals. The table of Goldsmiths' weights is as follows :

8 Khuskhus seeds	to 1 Chawul
8 Chawuls	to 1 Ruttee
8 Ruttees	to 1 Masha
12 Mashas	to 1 Tolah

The tolah weighs 190 Grains, consequently the masha equals $15^{10}/_{12}$ grains. The ruttee is very close upon two grains. The Khuskhus seed weights must be nominal as the natives have no scales capable of weighing a Chawul (or 1/4th of a grain) with exactness.

Appendix – 4

Process of Coining

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 13.

"Question 13 : Give a minute description of the process of coining.

Answer : When the bullion is brought to the mint, the Government assayer and the merchant jointly estimate its quality. If superior to the quality of Nagpore rupees it would become necessary to add alloy, this however is rarely the case. It is generally of a worse quality and it is necessary to add silver of a better quality, so as to when both are melted the produce may be of the quality of the Nagpore rupee. Mixing the metals before melting, so that the produce may turn out as above is an operation of great nicety, as if it should turn out more or less valuable it must be remelted at the expense mentioned above of 5 annas 4 pies per 1000 Rupees. The people however, who conduct the above process, from experience are able to judge so exactly of the different qualities of the silver mixed, that it is not necessary to melt a second time, about once in four times. When the silver is melted, a little of it is poured out and the weight of a rupee is assayed. During this process, the bullion is kept in a state of fusion in case it would require a slight alteration for the better or worse. If the alteration is considerable it generally becomes necessary to allow it to cool. It is remelted afterwards and by keeping the bullion long in a state of fusion, part of it becomes oxidised. The expense of a second melting, when necessary is conducted at the charge of the Government.

When the silver melted is found by assay to be of the requisite quality, it is cast into lugrees or ingots about six or seven inches long and about an inch in circumference but of a flattened shape. These lugrees are now weighed and given to the Sonars to make into rupees. Previous to this, however, the Jemidar of the mint guard, without whose assistance bullion is not allowed to be melted, takes up any lugree he pleases, or perhaps two, and having had a couple of pieces of the weight of a rupee each taken off sends them by the Haveldar of his Guard to the officer appointed to superintend assays.

If he pronounces the silver of the proper quality, the lugrees are then delivered as above to the Sonars but are otherwise remelted. The Sonars cut the lugrees and shape the pieces like rupees, in doing so it is necessay to heat the silver to render it more malleable, but never to melt it. The Sonars are required to deliver back the same weight of silver they received, thus as small pieces are necessarily broken or filled of, the weight of 1 percent is taken from them in small bits and filings and they are only required to deliver 99 Rs. percent. On the filings being again melted which becomes necessary in two or three months. From the amount collected, there is a loss sustained by Government of one percent. The unstamped rupees delivered by Sonars are now put into a large brass pot and boiled with tamerind juice to clean them. When they are thus cleaned, they are delivered to the stamper who impresses the Nagpore die on them. When they are ready for circulation".

Appendix – 5

Income and Expenditure of the Mint

The following is based on Answers to Questions 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12, *Bundle Correspondence Records*

The mint was farmed to a contractor named Angnoolala in the middle of 1225 fussilee for Rs 31,000. He however, sustained a great loss and gave up the contract. It was then farmed to one Shivram in 1227 fussilee for Rs 24,000 less expenses of the mint and outright for Rs 35,000 in the years 1228 and 1229 fussilee. With the exception of these contracts the mint was always on amanee system and was the Government's right. Merchants brought their bullion and had it converted to rupees at a charge of 1 1/2 per cent, the actual expenditure being only 1/2 per cent as follows :

Pay for melting or cleaning the silver for those who conduct process, per 1000 rupees.

Per 1000 Rupees	0	5	4
Per 1000 Rupees Cutting & Shaping the rupees.	2	8	0
Per 1000 Rupees Impressing the Sicca or die.	0	5	4
Charges for Charcoal, lead, crucibles etc.	1	13	4
	5	0	0

or 8 annas per cent.

Government expenses were as follows :

	Rs
Pay of Dr. Wylie per month	200.00
Pay of an assayer attached	25.00
Pay of an assayer attached to the mint	30.00
Pay of an engraver	30.00
Pay of a *Comawisdar*	40.00
Pay of two *Karkoons*	20.00
Pay of two *Hurkaras*	12.00
Pay of one *Bareedar*	4.00
Pay of two *Comattees*	6.00
Pay of a *Mushalchee*	3.00
Deo Pooja etc.	5.00
Total expenses per month	375.00

It appears from the first statement that the total pay omitting the cost of charcoal, etc., was Rs 3, annas 2, pai 8 or 3.1667 rupees per 1,000 rupees coined. Now, the second statement mentions that the total pay was Rs 375 per month. Assuming that both the statements tally the total number coined during the month comes to $^{375}/_{3.1667}$ x 1,000 = 1,18,419 or during the year of 1233 fussilee to 14,21,028. This is, of course, a crude calculation.

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 9

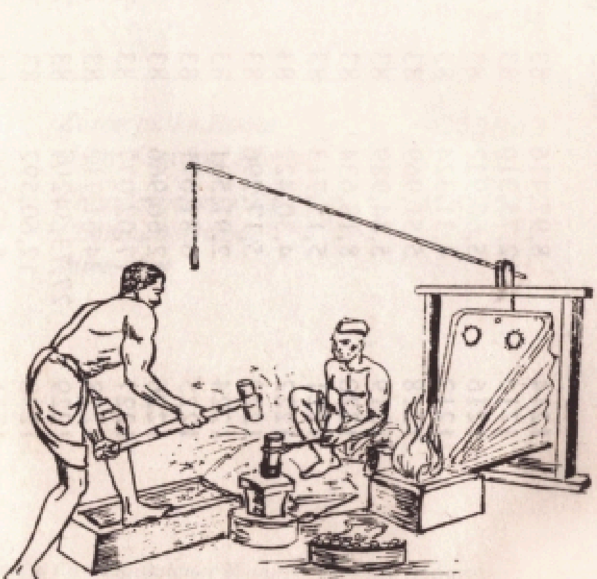
"Question 9 : Under the amanee or the present management, what are or have been the profits ?

Answer : There are accounts of the mint profits in the Sircar dufturs since the year 1185 fussilee. From the above year to 1213 fussilee, the above accounts mearly state the net profits without detailing or specifying the expenses of coining. From the year 1214 fussilee, the subjoined statement also specifies the expenses of the mint, up to the year 1232.

Statement of the Nagpore mint profits from the year 1185 to the year 1214 fussilee exclusive of the expenses of the mint and showing the number of rupees coined and their quality.

Fussilee Year	No. of Rs. coined	Weight of each rupee	Quality		Annual profit of the mint
			Pure silver	Alloy	
1185	2,30,241	83	76	7	4,605
1186	2,24,846	83	76	7	4,497
1187	2,31,159	83	76	7	4,623/4
1188	2,18,413	83	76	7	4,368
1189	2,37,399	83	76	7	748
1190	1,07,138	83	76	7	2,142/12
1191	3,36,875	83	76	7	6,737/8
1192	3,06,992	83	76	7	6,140
1193	1,89,776	83	76	7	3,795/8
1194	1,21,612	83	76	7	2,432/4
1195	34,538	83	76	7	690/12
1196	44,317	83	76	7	886/4
1197	4,23,107	83	76	7	8,462
1198	7,08,413	83	76	7	14,168/4
1199	4,76,040	83	76	7	9,502/12
1200	12,41,123	83	75	8	24,822/8
1201	10,35,367	83	75	8	20,707/6
1202	17,63,340	83	75	8	35,267
1203	12,94,374	83	75	8	25,887/8
1204	7,16,327	83	75	8	14,326/8
1205	9,48,690	83	75	8	18,973/12
1206	5,39,606	83	75	8	10,792/2

Fussilee Year	No. of Rs. coined	Weight of each rupee	Quality Pure silver	Quality Alloy	Annual profit of the mint
1207	1,72,700	83	75	8	3,454
1208	6,56,619	83	75	8	13,132/6
1209	6,66,381	83	75	8	13,327/12
1210	5,51,830	83	75	8	11,036/8
1211	8,08,566	83	75	8	16,171/6
1212	4,93,728	83	75	8	9,874/8
1213	11,42,680	83	75	8	22,853/8



Statement as before, but specifying the expenses of the mint, from 1214 to 1232 Fussille.

Fussilee year	No. of rupees	Weight of each rupee	Quality		Expenses of coining	*Sanstaneck* (Govt. share).	Net profit of the mint
			pure	alloy			
1214	8,97,416	83	74	9	4,242/11/3	4,606/2/9	20,318/5/11
1215	12,75,310	83	74	9	7,426/8/6	6,092/8/9	27,926/13/9
1216	5,60,932	83	74	9	7,426/8/3	2,556/3/6	11,934/9/3
1217	4,31,324	83	74	9	2,656/4/4	2,053/6/6	9,308/12/6
1218	5,51,969	83	74	9	2,887/11/4	2,780/9/9	12,271/9/3
1219	5,84,989	83	74	9	2,852/12/6	3,006/14/3	13,126/13/3
1220	8,18,634	83	74	9	4,436/12/11	4,042/14/6	18,227/11/6
1221	5,15,713	83	74	9	3,277/3/11	2,409/14/9	11,075/--/3
1222	4,30,422	83	74	9	2,387/3/6	2,136/8/3	9,464/12/3
1223	5,17,296	83	74	9	2,860/3/6	2,558/9/3	11,593/11/9
1224	2,91,581	83	74	9	1,914/15/6	1,368/14/6	6,192/12/6
1225	6,81,071	83	74	9	920/14/6	3,560/11/6	12,503/12/6
1226	12,66,966	83	74	9	6,332/4/6	1,410/14/6	12,257/12/6
1227	17,02,077	83	72	11	2,852/12/6	1,312/1/6	14,764/15/6
1228	34,61,712	83	72	11	17,000/12/6	1,410/1/6	35,000/15/6
1229	27,73,342½	83	72	11	14,000/12/6	1,057/8/6	35,000/15/6
1230	12,60,592	83	72	11	14,024/1/6	1,770/--/-	15,720/11/6
1231	5,42,600	83	72	11	6,441/12/6	1,007/8/-	4,710/4/9
1232	5,49,995	83	72	11	6,901/15/9	1,007/8/-	2,298/10/6"

Appendix – 6

Types of Nagpur Rupees, Their Values and the Rates of Batta

On 14/7/1856 Mr Lushington, Secretary to the Government of India wrote to the Officiating Secretary to the Finance Department[3] that the different sorts of Nagpore rupees be received in the treasury at their respective values and not at a flat rate. The list of assay values given in the margin of this letter provides us with a good clue to the dating of the Nagpur rupees and identification of the actual coins from the marks on them. The same has been reproduced here :

Pieces	Description	Mint authorised Value in Company's rupees after deducting all charges.	Value of 100 Nagpoor rupees into Company's rupees
5000	*Zuree patka Boota* of Dr. Gordon's time	4252/6/3	85/11/9
5000	*Chunderpoorea Za Chunda neshanee sawa char*	4183/5/11	85/10/8

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[3] *Bundle Correspondence Records*, Finance Department, Letter No. 3370 Case File No. 2 of 1857.

Pieces	Description	Mint authorised Value in Company's Rs. after deducting all charges.	Value of 100 Nagpoor Rs. into Company's rupees
500(0)	*Zuree Patka Ugnoo Paulshaee nishanee*	4186/3/7	83/11/7
4000	*Chowphoolia Juswant Raoshaee*	3192/6/11	81/8/1
2500	*Nursing shaee Chandkee kenareeper boondkee*	2006/1/9	80/3/11
2000	*Chandinsn boondkee* of *Seetal Sewarao's* time	1580/7/7	79/11/4
3700	*Munbhut shaee neshanee Padooka*	2972/12/2	80/5/6
800	*Ungnoo shaee*	689/9/2	86/3/1
4500	*Ramjee Tantea shaee NishaneeKhaleeChandkee*	3637/1/7	80/13/2
700	*Ragoojee shaee fooliadar*	599/13/3	85/11/11

Captain Presgrave, Assay Master of Sagar mint also made a statement dated 3rd June 1826 of rupees received for recoining which gives the different names of the Nagpur rupees.

Jubbelpore Divisional Records, File No. 2 of 1826.

“Statement showing the value of four parcels of rupees of sort received from captain Low, Principal Assistant to the Agent to Governor General at Baitool.

13 sorts composing the first parcel.

Nagpore rupees			
	Munjhola or 7 sun	1	
	Chapha or Barik ank	6	
	Mehroo	19	
	Old bina sun	28	
	Doboondia	12	
	Poureedar or Mulla Pouree	23	
	Zereeputka	754	
	Teenfoolia or Kullungeedar	2	
	Chowfoolia	13	
	Nuldar	43	901
Chanda rupees			
	Old	49	
	Mehroo	28	
	New	21	98
	923 sicca weight number		999

1 Sort composing 2nd Parcel.

Nagpore Rupees Zereeputka neshandar - 1099, 1017 sicca weight.

9 Sorts composing 3rd parcel.

Nagpore Rupees			
	Munjhola	3	
	Old, barike ank	10	
	Mehroo	219	
	Doboondia	43	
	Zereeputka neshandar	1	
	Chowfoolia	120	
	Poureedar	230	
	Nuldar	469	
			1095
	Chandah new	2	2
	1011 sicca weight - number		1097

7 sorts composing 4th parcel.

Chandah Rupees

Zubbra	1	
Parik sun	10	
Mehroo	317	
Old	438	
New	328	
		1094

Nagpore Rupees

Neshandar Zereeputka	2	
Old	1	3
1008 sicca weight or in number		1097

Saugor assay office
3rd June 1826

Captain Presgrave
Assay Master"

Another undated statement of Presgrave (*c* May 1826) mentioned the following types of Nagpur rupees-*Ziree, 7 Sun Manjhola, old Nagpore, Chupha 11 sun, Doboondee, Raitopka* or *teenboondia, Zireeputkaneshandar, Kullungeedar, Chow*foolia,*Poureedar* or *Mulla Pouree* and *Naldar.*

George Swinton in his letter to Resident Jenkins[4] also mentions in detail to what extent the Nagpur rupee was inferior to any other. He said that, of all the currencies, the *Nagpore* exhibited the widest difference.

The result of different assays given by him are as follows :

	Wilson's Statement 22nd July 1819		Noten's Statement 4th August 1821		Wilson's Statement 7th Jan 1823	
	Wt	P. Silver	Wt	P. Silver	Wt	P. Silver
Indore	172	162.325	174.50	161.41	174.5	161.41
					166	145.250
Jubbelpore	167.316	148.144	174.50	161.41	165.5	145.857
					166	146.638
Nagpore	166.528	135.159	166.73	144.22	164.5	142.567
					165.3	143.260
					166.5	134.587
Old Nagpore	168.650	153.366				
Oojain	173.260	161.709	173	156.13		

Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. 43, Letter No. 34.

Resident R. Jenkins wrote on 15th November, 1823 to George Swinton, Secretary to the Government, (*Jubbelpore Divisional Records,* Political Department) giving the ratio of Bhonsla rupees to Farrukhabad rupees.

Statement showing Ratio of Bhonsla Rupees to 100 Farrukhabad Rupees.

		Rs.	*As.*	*Ps.*
Raghujee's Rupees	---	112	4	4 $\frac{141}{147}$
Agnoo lala's	---	133	0	0
Mun Bhutt's	---	119	10	8 $\frac{47}{137}$
Ramjee Tanteea's	--	188	5	10 $\frac{32}{139}$
Sheoram's	--	121	7	10 $\frac{95}{135}$
Chanda	--	115	14	4 $\frac{38}{142}$
Jubbelpore	--	110	1	1 $\frac{64}{150}$
Zireeputka	--	113	4	11 $\frac{118}{145}$
Average value of the currency	--	115	5	3 $\frac{32}{143}$

Dr Gordon's observations are contained in his answer as follows :

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 29

"Question 29 : What may be the amount of circulating silver coin in the country and in what proportion of the different rupees of Nagpore and other mints ?

Answer : It appears by the table already given of the coinage from the year 1885 fussilee to the present period that 3,53,62,724 Rs. have been coined at the Nagpore mint, of the above number however, almost all those containing eight ruttees of alloy and under have disappeared from circulation. It is difficult to ascertain the actual amount of circulating coin. It is supposed however by Sahookars and others likely to be able to judge not to exceed at the utmost one crore of rupees and perhaps it may fall considerably short of that sum. The total gross revenue of the territories which belonged to this Government before the late war, in which the Nagpore coinage circulates, does not it is supposed, exceed seventy lacks of rupees and thirty lacks would be a large allowance for the money circulated in trade especially as this is chiefly carried on by hoondees. It is impossible to state the proportions of the different rupees of the Nagpore and of other mints in circulation with accuracy, but Sahookars on being questioned, state that out of a hundred rupees taken indiscriminately perhaps there will be found 25 of the Chanda mint 35 of the Nagpore mint before Seeveram Sonar received his contract in 1227 fussilee, 20 Rs. of Seevarams coinage, 15 Rs. made since his time and 5 Rs. of the Jubbulpoor coinage.

Bundle Correspondence Records, Question-Answer No. 30.

"Question 30 : What are the rates of batta at which the different rupees circulated in the city ?

Answer : The rupees of the Nagpore, Chanda & Jubbulpoor mints, if not broken or cut, all circulated nearly at par.

If a person wishes to buy up rupees of the new or of a very old coinage (containing 7 or 8 ruttees of alloy) he would have to pay from half a rupee to one rupee premium percent. Rupees of other Indian mints sell at present in Nagpore as follows :

Arcot rupees at a premium of		11 percent
Delhi Soortee	,,	13 percent
Oojain	,,	11 percent
Jaypore	,,	11 percent
Benares	,,	17 percent
Farrukhabad	,,	13 percent
Chandore	,,	5 percent

It may be remarked that the above rupees do not appear to sell in proportion to their intrinsic value and this is actually the case as a demand for any particular sort by travellers or others does not fail to enhance their price."

Appendix – 7

Mint Committee Report

The valuation of Nagpur rupee was thus a very complicated matter. There being no uniformity in the currency, it created great difficulties in trade and commerce. A committee constituting of Esq. I. Barwill, W. Money and H. Wood was constituted in 1824 to look into the matter. Its report (*Jubbelpore Divisional Records,* 31st October 1826) reads as follows :

"His Excellency General

The Right Hon'ble Lord Combermere K.G.C.B.
My Lord,

1. We have the honour to acknowledge the letter of the Acting Secretary to Government in the Territorial Department of the 21st September last.

2. As regards the resolution of the Government of the 10th September 1824, it is much to be regretted that the arrangements requisite to gain effect to this resolution should not have been long ago decided.

3. The resolutions should be carried into effect immediately subject to such modifications as have been suggested.

4. The Furruckabad rupee has already been introduced at Saugor.

5. As current with the Furruckabad rupee, Nagpore rupee will be of course receivable at the public treasuries.

6. The Nagpore rupee should be received by weight.

7. In case the rupees are received by tale the weight of any given number shall be verified, as otherwise the rupees tendered for payment might fall far short of their average current full weight that is around 92 Farruckabad rupees for 100 Nagpore.

8. It is a matter of more difficulty to fix up the rate of 100 such full weight rupees.

9. Mr. Maddock's letter of the 3rd July states that the Nagpore rupee in circulation comprehend eight different sorts; 100 of the best being equal to Furruckabad rupees 96.12.5 and the worst to 82.1.9, a difference of 14.10.8 percent. It might therefore be apprehended that none but the Naldar or the worst

rupees would be paid into the treasuries but Mr. Maddock states that the rupees of the latest coinage of the mint, the Zireeputka are much better than the Naldar, and average about 15 percent below the Furruckabad Rupees. He admits however that even the Zireeputka rupees vary very much in intrinsic value. This is very discreditable to the management of the Nagpore Mint and to the British Government. We trusted the coinage would have undergone a reformation and we expected that the Resident would have reformed the abuses of the mint.

10. It will be better to assume the value with reference to the proposed value of the reformed coinage. With respect to the payment we would suggest that no Nagpore rupee excepting the reformed Nagpore rupee, be reissued in the territory under the Saugor agency but that a sufficient supply of Furruckabad rupees be kept up.

11. The Nagpore rupee should be of a uniform regulated standard; of 157.5 grains containing 144.375 pure silver and 13.125 alloy.

12. A distinct mark may be put on the new rupee to distinguish it from the old varieties. The Nagpore rupee is now a thick coin of irregular circumference and contracted diameter bearing as usual with country coins an incomplete inscription. It should in future be assimilated to the Rupees of the Company's mint in its circular shape and expanded face, should be milled on the edge and bear an entire inscription in legible characters. The Nagpore mint should be furnished with apparatus necessary for the execution of such a coin and with an officer capable of directing its manufacture and checking its composition by a scientific assay. Until these arrangements are enforced we would propose that a stop may be put to the coinage at Nagpore and that the collections in the Nagpore currency may be coined in the Saugor mint into the new Nagpore rupee for the purpose of remittance to Nagpore..."

The Government accordingly[5] resolved that

"With respect to the acceptance of rupees of different sorts of Nagpore currency, a scale of value shall be arranged for each class by the Governor General's Agent according to its intrinsic assay value.

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[5] True copies of the Resolution made by H Prinsep, the Assistant Secretary to the Government dated 21st December, 1826 *Jubbelpore Divisional Records.*

From a date to be fixed by the Agent to the Governor General and notified by proclamation three months anticedently, Nagpore rupees of the currencies now in circulation shall be recoined by tale according to their description as full weight rupees, provided that in weight they do not fall short of proportion of 100 to 92 Furruckabad of the Saugor coinage, but if defective in weight, that they be recoined as bullion only.

The table of the rates shall be furnished to the officer in charge of the treasuries and it be countersigned by the Assay master.

The rate of commission for adjusting Government demands on the Malgoozars shall be 86.11.6 Furruckabad for 100 Nagpore.

The fifth rule of resolution of 10th September, regarding the non receipt of any Nagpore rupee except as bullion after the expiration of the year 1232 be deleted.

The eighth rule informs that the Resident at Nagpore shall take measures to secure regularity in the coinage there, and to introduce the same principles as Government may prescribe for the Nerbudda territory. That this has not been done is sufficiently evident from the assay report on the Juree Putka rupees, which have been issued since the resolution in question was passed and while the control of the mint at Nagpore was still in the Resident's hands. The observations of the mint committee on this branch of the subject are very appropriate but the consideration of it belongs to the Political Department to which a copy of that report together with an extract of such part of correspondence as relate to the Nagpore coinage in later years will be transferred for any orders that may appear requisite.

Adverting to the recommendation contained in the 12th para of the report of the mint committee, His Lordship in Council is of opinion not only that the Saugor mint should be empowered to coin good Nagpore rupees of the weight and standard above fixed for remittance to the Resident at Nagpore which is very necessary, but further, on application of merchants and bringing bullion to the mint, that it be left at their option to receive the amount (after deducting the prescribed Signorage and duty) either in Furruckabad or in new Nagpore rupees of the regulated value and weight.

Moreover with a view to expedite the displacement of the old deteriorated coin, that an advantage of 1 percent should be allowed in the signorage on the recoining of old Nagpore rupees when voluntarily brought in for recoining."

We however do not know whether any Nagpur coin was ever minted at Sagar or whether a Nagpur coin was ever machine-struck, as no record or coin as yet been found.

It seems that the new *Zariputka* rupees continued till 1854 when the mint was shut down. The value was on the rise by that time. After the mint was closed down there was an exhorbitant demand for Nagpur rupees, which were valued at a premium even by comparison with the Company rupees. This position gave rise to many counterfeiters who manufactured Nagpur rupees and earned the premium. This matter is discussed in detail in chapter 4.

Appendix — 8

Assay Report

The valuation of rupees gave rise to the need for assaying the coins. Dr Gordon had this done and reported on 23rd September 1823. This very report is referred to in the Government's resolution and mint committee report cited in the immediately preceding pages. The original report is kept in the C. P. Civil Secretariat, *Bundle Correspondence*, Finance Department, Case No. 1 of 1823. It runs as follows :

"The accompanying assays have been made for the purpose of obtaining a knowledge of the true state of the currency in the Nagpoor territory.

Bags of one thousand rupees as received from Chutteesgurh, the Residents Treasury, Bundara and Chhindwarrah were taken indiscriminately and sorted into different coinage as stated in assays number 1, 2, 3 and 4.

From these coinages a few rupees were weighed and assayed, the number so taken were replaced by others of a similar kind, the whole of each coinage, then separately melted (first ascertaining the weights) and several pieces of the average weight assayed.

The remaining melted parts or a portion of them were then fused together and pieces of the Nagpoor rupee standard weight assayed.

The result of each of these assays is given in the column of contents in pure silver.

The average quantity of pure silver in each rupee of the different coinages, whether separate, or from the melted masses is shown in the table after each number, also the general average of these and the average from the whole melted masses.

A table is also given exhibiting the averages of numbers 1, 2, 3 & 4.

It was now determined to assort a larger number of rupees, conceiving that a more correct result would be obtained; accordingly three lacks were taken and sorted.

Parcels of one hundred rupees were made up containing the proportions of the different coinages as found in the three lacks and particularised in number 5 and 6 and each lot was melted and pieces of Nagpoor rupee standard weight assayed. The result and averages are given as in the former instance.

From these assays numbers 5 and 6, we at once ascertain the difference of the Nagpoor currency from any given standard and they ought to be taken as our guide in calculations for a new coinage.

The Zireeputka or present coinage from the assays of separate rupees and melted masses in numbers 1, 2, 3 & 4 being regular, it was thought an object of importance to know in how much it differed from coinages of preceding periods to enable us in the event of no change taken place in the standard to calculate what would be necessary to bring all the other coinages of the state to the same value. With this view, ten lots (made up in the way from the three lacks as in numbers 5 and 6, excluding the Zirreeputka or so) per cent were melted and assayed and the result is given in No. 7.

The results of our experiments in melting and assaying Nagpoor rupees is as follows :

Loss in melting bullion 1 per cent
Loss in melting pure silver 0.087 per cent
Loss in melting and assaying 1.659 per cent

In conducting the assays, however, in the accompanying report, the following rules have been observed.

First, in the assay report numbers 1, 2, 3 & 4 of separate rupees, only one percent is added for loss in cupellation. In the assays of the melted mases of nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4 no addition is made for the loss in assaying as the loss of silver is supposed to be counterbalanced by the loss of alloy in melting.

Second, in the assays of 5, 6 and 7 allowance for loss on cupellation is added at the rate of one percent and allowance for loss of alloy in melting is deducted at the rate as actualy found.

The assays have been conducted according to the mode which has hitherto been practiced at Nagpoor. The following is a brief sketch of it :

The cupels are prepared from burned bones of sheep, these are mixed with a little cow dung and water, the mass is shaped with the finger and slowly dried in the fire. During an assay they often crack, the operation consequently is spoiled.

The native assayers do not proportion the quantity of lead used, to the quantity of alloy in the rupee to be assayed; for all the rupees current here (some of which may contain as far as thirty grains of alloy) they use about 460 grains of lead. They have no assay furnaces, but employ a common charcoal fire, and regulate the heat and current of air by their bellows.

The cupel being placed on the fire, the native assayer puts the piece of metal to be assayed (usually one rupee weight) into it, and allows it to be heated for a short time when he commences adding the lead which is not put in at once. The first portion may be about a third or fourth of the weight used and the remainder, beat out into long bars, is added in small quantities as the preceding portions are carried off.

The appearance during cupellation corresponds with the best descriptions but the lead is not entirely vitrified as we find a considerable part of that which passes through the cupel to be in a metallic state.

We have made many assays agreeable to the plan said to be followed in the mints in Europe, as far as has been in our power by using a portable air furnace proper cupels and proportionating the quantity of lead to the quantity of alloy. The results agree with those obtained by the native mode. The cupels however being made only of burned bones and water do not crack and the lead and alloy are completely oxidised.

Assays of the Nagpoor Coinage
commencing 6th July 1823
No. 1

A bag of 100 rupees from Chutteesgurh on being opened and sorted is found to contain as follows :

Of Raghojee's coinage	85
Of Angnoolala's coinage	31
Of Munbhutt's coinage	64
Of Ramjee Tanteea's coinage	84
Of Seevaram's coinage	234
Of Chandah Mint coinage	291
Of Zirreeputkas	211
Total	1000

		Weight of Rupees		Contents of pure silver	
		Grs.	Dec.	Grs.	Dec.
Assay of Raghojee's No.	1	166	.000	148	.970
	2	166	.000	144	.430
	3	167	.000	149	.605
	4	166	.500	147	.460
	5	166	.---	146	.450
	6	166	.---	146	.450
	7	166	.---	135	.340
	8	166	.500	148	.470
Melted 85 Rupees of Raghojee's and assayed 4 pieces of average weight of the rupee	1	166	.850	146	.495
	2	166	.850	146	.745
	3	166	.850	146	.370
	4	166	.850	145	.995
Assay of Angnoo Lala's	1	166	.500	145	.440
	2	166	.500	144	.930
Melted 31 Rupees of Angnoo Lala's and assayed 2 pieces of average weight of the rupee	1	166	.625	146	.780
	2	166	.625	146	.390
Assays of Mun Bhutt's	1	166	.750	146	.390
	2	166	.500	139	.880

		Weight of Rupee		Contents of silver	
		Grs.	Dec.	Grs.	Dec.
Melted 64 Rupees of Mun Bhutt's and assayed 2 pieces of average weight of the rupee	1	166	500	136	875
	2	166	500	137	000
Assays of Ramjee Tanteea's	1	166	175	137	985
	2	166	750	spoiled	
	3	166	125	140	255
	4	166	---	139	880
Melted 84Rupees of Ramjee Tanteea and assayed 4 pieces of average weight of the rupee	1	166	625	139	000
	2	166	625	138	750
	3	166	625	138	750
	4	166	625	138	500
Assays of Seevaram's	1	166	---	138	870
	2	165	875	138	235
	3	166	---	142	900
	4	166	125	134	330
Melted 234...assayed 2	1	166	700	136	500
	2	166	700	136	500
Assays of Chandah Mint	1	168	500	138	235
	2	168	---	150	740
	3	165	---	137	735
	4	164	875	134	455
Melted 291..assayed 2	1	166	250	141	875
	2	166	250	141	875
Assays of Zirreeputkas	1	166	250	145	690
	2	166	250	145	440
	3	166	625	145	440
	4	166	625	145	935
Melted 211... assayed 4	1	166	875	166	875
	2	166	875	146	875
	3	166	875	146	875
	4	166	875	146	875
From each of the above melted masses took 25 rupees of the standard weight and melted the whole or 175 rupees and assayed 4 pieces.	1	167	---	143	750
	2	167	----	spolied	
	3	167	---	144	250
	4	167	---	144	---

Averages of assays of lot first :

In separate Rupees	*Separate Rupees*	*Pure silver in melted masses*
Raghojee's	145.896	146.401
Angnoo Lala's	145.185	146.890
Mun Bhutt's	140.135	136.937
Seevaram's	138.585	136.500
Ramjee Tanteea's	139.370	138.750
Chandah Mint	140.291	141.875
Zirreeputkas	145.376	146.875
General Average	142.118	142.032

(Details of lots 2, 3 and 4 are not included here but a total average is given below-*author.*)

Averages of Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4

	Weight of Rupees			Contents in pure silver in separate rupees			Contents in pure silver in melted mass
	Average	Max.	Min.	Average	Max.	Min.	
R	166.743	168.000	164.500	146.622	152.500	135.340	141.154
A	166.475	166.750	165.625	146.060	150.490	143.420	146.28
M	166.068	166.750	164.750	138.061	141.140	133.945	137.384
RT	166.318	167.000	165.500	139.910	143.920	137.100	139.534
S	166.671	167.500	164.750	138.997	145.940	131.925	136.050
C	165.920	168.500	163.500	142.762	151.750	134.455	142.315
Z	166.868	167.500	166.250	145.876	146.825	144.985	145.806
Jabblepore	166.637	167.125	165.750	148.650	149.220	147.835	150.012
Gen. Avg.	166.387	168.500	163.500	143.367	152.500	131.455	143.180

Average of the whole melted masses 143.148."

Appendix – 9

The Great Adulteration

From the assays it is obvious that the coins of Mun Bhutt, Ramjee Tanteea and Shivram contained the greatest impurity. They adulterated the coins and secretly earned profits. The practice was detected by the end of 1820 and the mint thereafter was fully taken under British control. The reporter[6] narrates the whole story in a most interesting manner :

"On our assuming charge of the Nagpore Government subsequent to Appa Sahib's seizure in April 1818, the mint was kept up on the former footing and preserved on it till February 1820, when considerable adulteration in the coin having been discovered a reformation in its system of management took place.

It would appear from the late extensive assays of Nagpore rupees that a considerable degree of adulteration seems always to have been going on under the old government and this is the less to be wondered at as the process of assaying was not used or known at Nagpore till the year 1213 fussilee (about 19 or 20 years ago) when a sonar by name Pearee lal first introduced it. It has been managed by him and his successors upto the present period, but even now it seems to be only imperfectly understood and practiced. The mint standard was lowered by Appa Sahib from 74 ruttees of pure silver to 72, but the coinage made whilst he was on the musnud, does not appear to contain above 68 or 68½ ruttees. This however, we have only become lately aware of, as no complaints or murmers seem to have been occasioned by the deterioration of the coin.

When we took charge we found the Government officers appointed to the superintendence of assays were as follows :

One Comawisdar/or Mint master, one potdar/or inspector of assays and two Bareedars who had charge of the money. When the Nawab Seedeek Alee Khan received charge of the city collections subsequent to Appa Sahib's seizure, he farmed the mint to Seeoram Sonar who had formerly hold it in farm under Appa Sahib's Government. This person continued to hold it till the beginning of 1228, fussilee when Mr. I. Gordon having assumed general superintendence of the city customs the mint was continued by him at the recommendation of Narrain Pundit to Seeoram under the immediate charge of Ramjee Tanteea, the Pundit's particular friend to whom was also entrusted the rest of the city customs and for whose general and good conduct the Pundit pledged himself to be responsible.

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[6] C. P. Civil Secretariat, *Bundle Correspondence*, Finance Department, Case File No. 1 of 1823. The report is undated and bears no heading but it is presumed that it was prepared by Dr Gordon on the order of Resident Jenkins.

Seeoram gave security for the payment of 35,000 rupees per annum profit to the Government on account of the mint and he also bound himself in writing to maintain the coinage at the regulated standard of 72 ruttees of pure silver. Under the usual penalties (practice)[7] the Signiorage was at this time at the low rates of exchange encouraged to mint coinage that is 2 ps. percent. N. P. (Narrain Pundit)[8] believed this profit could very well be afforded.

It would appear from Ramjee Tantea's rupees (those coined by Seooram under Ramjee Tanteea's inspection) that the adulteration practiced under former Government was still continued, though to a less extent. His rupees are found to contain about one ruttee or two grains of pure silver more than Munbhutt's.

Narrain Pundit who lived near the mint frequently reported to Mr. Gordon that he inspected the assays and found them perfectly correct. Whether or not this proceeded from any collusion on his and Ramjee Tanteea's part, with those concerned in the mint work or from their being deceived by the assayer mixing a few grains of pure silver with the lead used in assaying (which it would appear has been a common trick with these people it is difficult to say). On the expiration of the fussilee year 1228, most of the city customs for the ensuing year were offered in contract to the highest bidder who could furnish the necessary security, and Nursing Rao Ballal late Vakeel to Daulat Rao Sindia farmed almost the whole of them at a very considerable advance on the former rates. On his receiving charge of the city collections, this person amongst other agreements pledged himself in writing, to maintain the coinage at the former standard of 72 ruttees of pure silver. Narrain Pundit also agreed to continue his constant inspection of assay which Mr. Gordon from living at a distance and from his other avocations (he had besides doing the duty of Surgeon to the residency, charge of the Rajah's treasury and of the Rajah's household establishment) was not able to do, nor had he then qualified himself to perform.

[7] *Author.*
[8] *Author.*

For sometime there is a reason to believe that under the new contract the coinage was carried as before. Narrain Pundit used constantly to report the correctness of the mint business. On one occasion he mentioned that he had detected a deficiency of half a ruttee (one grain) of pure silver in some rupees made. He was desired to stop the mint operations till he had fully enquired into the business. He soon after reported that he had done so, that the deterioration was accidental and that with the view of preventing its again occuring he had stationed a confidential Goomashta of his own by name Teewarrysing at the mint and that this person would reside there and by his constant inspection completely prevent all further adulteration whether intentional or accidental. About this time, a large sum of money chiefly in Company's rupees having been sent up here from Hyderabad for payment of the Madras troops, it was deemed expedient to convert them into Nagpore rupees and they were accordingly delivered over by Captain Bayley who has charge of the Resident's treasury, for this purpose to Seeoram the mint contractor.

The Resident shortly afterwards accompanied Col. Adams to Hoshingabad. This occured in December 1819. He was attended by Mr. Gordon and other members of his family. Whilst at Hoshingabad only in February 1820 intelligence was received from Captain Bayley stationed at Nagpore, that he had received information of great adulterations which had taken place and were still continuing in the mint. Mr. Gordon was immediately sent down to put a stop to these proceedings and to enquire into the adulteration said to have taken place and now for the first time brought to notice. Orders were also forwarded to shut up the mint and not to allow any of the property contained in it to be removed.

Mr. Gordon on his arrival at Nagpore, finding Nursing Rao and Seeoram to be chiefly implicated in the adulterations which had taken place, placed guards over the houses of both these persons.

Captain Bayley's informants having accused Narrain Pundit and several other respectable natives employed at the Residency being accessary to the adulterations at the mint and of having received bribes to conceal them, a private enquiry was instituted by a committee composed of Captain A. Gordon, St. Asstt. to the Resident, Capt. Bayley and Mr. I. Gordon, with the view of ascertaining whether any of these charges had any foundation. All the witnesses were examined who gave information to Capt. Bayley and others were encouraged to come forward. It was found however after several days attentive examination that nothing like proof of any money having been paid to Narrain Pundit or any of the people named, could be established. That great adulteration had taken place was beyond doubt, and there was a strong presumption that Narrain Pundit could not have remained altogether ignorant of it. The Sirkar Potdar who was a responsible man had fled from Nagpore and Narrain Pundit recommended that Teewarrysing whom he had personally placed over the mint should be hanged or at least banished for ever from the Nagpore territories. A good deal of adulterated coin was found in the mint, some ready but the greater part in a state of preparation. A great deal of money (to the extent of one lack nine thousand five hundred and fiftynine rupees, seven annas and six pies) was also due to the Resident's treasury, and Seeoram stated that he had no assets to pay it back. The delinquents all pleaded poverty and had taken effectual steps to secure any property they might have possessed from sequestration.

Narrain Pundit was informed that all this loss and discredit had occured through his negligence and he was recommended as the most likely way of getting over the business to take steps to make good the losses that had actually occurred and also rectify the adulterated coin and bullion found in the mint. This after a good deal of hesitation he agreed to do on condition that Nursing Rao, Seeoram and all other mint delinquents were delivered over to him. He agreed not to punish or use any degree of violence, towards any of them without special permission.

Under the above circumstances, it was deemed most advisable to take advantage of Narrain Pundit's offer and he accordingly received charge of the whole of the mint delinquents. The loss to Government was made good and all the coinage found in the mint rectified at Narrain Pundit's expense, who is said to have been a personal looser in the end as he only recovered from Nursing Rao and Seeoram a part of what he paid.

Since the above occurrance, Mr. Gordon has taken the charge of the mint and the arrangements observed seem to have been attended with the desired effect of preserving the purity of the coinage.

The chief desideratum was to obtain the assistance of a qualified European officer to constantly inspect the assays. Captain Pew who lived near the mint undertook this office and seems to have carefully executed it.

Since Captain Pew's appointment to the Chhiteesgurh Provential Battalion it has been managed by Dr. Wylie who has qualified himself for the task and now carefully conducts it."

Appendix – 10

Weights of the Copper Coins

In 1221 Fussilee (AD 1810) copper mint was started at Nagpur. The pice that weighed 19 mashas in the beginning was redued to 15¹/₄ *mashas* in 1225 Fussilee, to 12 *mashas* in 1226 and to 10 *mashas* in 1228.

Dr Gordon submitted a thoughtful report on this depreciation of the pice and made the new pice of 14 *mashas* in 1230 Fussilee. He again increased it to 16 *mashas* in 1233 Fussilee. But soon after he realised that the depreciation could not be checked. It appears that he reduced the weights to 9 *mashas* thereafter. His report of 1821 as well as his observations made in 1823 are reproduced here in full.[9]

"Memorandum of Dr. I. Gordon Esq. respecting the coinage of copper : Nagpore - 4th July 1821

Comparative view of advantages and disadvantages likely to arise from a new coinage of copper pice weighing 14 mashas :-

The disadvantages being few may be first enumerated.

The first and greatest of it is the loss that will fall on pice surrafs who have the largest stock of the present coinage as it will become necessary to call in the whole of it on the new coinage being ready for issue. It may be observed however that these dealers in pice will speedily get rid of the whole amount of the stock in hand on hearing of a new coinage being in preparation. The loss however will at any rate be small and not more than they can well afford from their constant profits in dealing in this commodity. It will not exceed one anna in the rupee or 6¹/₄ percent as will appear by the following statement.

At percent 57 pice are sold for one Rupee, at this rate 1211¹/₄ pice cost 21 Rs. 4 anas. The above number of pice each weighing ten mashas are equal in weight to one Nagpore maund of copper. The above copper is procured at present at 20 Rs. a maund so that on twenty Rupees of pice of the present coinage the owners only lose by selling them at the mint 1¼ Rupees or twenty anas, which gives an ana to the Rupee as above mentioned.

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[9] C. P. Civil Secretariat, *Bundle Correspondence*, Finance Department, Case File No. 1 of 1823.

It may here be observed that it is but perfectly fair and equitable that the pice surraffs should sustain the above mentioned loss, for they are the people who constantly depreciated the value of the pice coinage by purchasing them at a cheap rate from the poor people who bring them for sale and disposing of them there at a higher rate to purchasers. They never have less profit than one pice on the rupee in this manner and frequently more. This is so well known that on a former occasion when a new pice coinage was ordered in the time of Raghojee and when the loss to the holder of property in pice was much greater than it is at present, a petition was given to the Rajah by the Surrafs complaining of the circumstance; the answer they received from the Government was that as they were the people who has depreciated the existing currency by which much loss was sustained to the Sirkar, it was proper they should sustain that existing from a new one.

The only other disadvantage likely to arise from a new copper coinage is the alteration it may occasion in the value of labour. This however, may be easily adjusted by proportionating the payments in the new coin to its realistic value to the standard of the rupee compared with the old.

The advantages to the Government of a new coinage are various. In the first place there will be a direct profit from the pice mint which would not otherwise occur, of about nine thousand rupees per annum. The common profit taken on coinage is 5 percent and it is apprehended, the necessary coinage required within the year will not yield less than the above sum.

In the second place, the duties on stamped cloth made in Nagpore are one pice on each piece of cloth. At present therefore only the 57th part of the rupee is given whereas by increasing the weight of the new coinage as proposed so that forty of them may be sold for one rupee we shall obtain the fortieth part of the rupee or 42 percent difference of profit.

Thirdly, the duties on vegetables and on stamping thread are also levied in pice and a similar profit will occur in the amount collected on these activities.

Fourthly, the Thullals *(Dullals-author)* will in all probability sell the same quantity of liquor (they say that at present) to pice of the new coinage as they did for one of the present. This will enable them to pay more money to Government than is at present levied from them.

On the whole it is conceived that the advantages existing from a new coinage of pice greatly counterbalance the objections that may be urged against it and which as far as they are known are above mentioned."

Report of Dr I. Gordon on further increase of weight of copper coin to16 mashas in 1823 (Extracted from *Bundle Correspondence Records,* Answer to Question 16):

"In the last alteration of pice, one maund of copper was purchased at the market price of 19 rupees. The expenses of manufacturing the pice and the Government duties at 5 percent together amounted to 3 Rs. 6 annas on the maund, total 22 Rs. 6 annas per maund. There are 16 seers to a maund of copper and each seer weighs 72 rupees. In the above quantity of copper there are 11952 mashas which quantity yielded 747 pice of 16 mashas each. They are sold at the rate of 32 to a rupee at which rate of sale, the maund of pice costs 23 Rs. 4 annas thus leaving a profit to the contractor, for this personal trouble and the interest of his money after assaying the Government duties and expenses of making the profit of 14 annas on each maund of copper of 4 Rs. 2 annas 4 ps. percent.

From the above statement it appears that the Government duties and expense of making pice being 3 Rs. 6 as. on the maund, amounted to 17 Rs. 12 as.and 6 pies percent. Thus, on the whole, the copper was sold in the shape of pice at an advance of 22 Rs. 10 pies percent on its original cost. The above pice now sell in the bazar at the rate of 44 for one rupee and copper has now fallen to the rate of 16 1/4 rupees per maund. Should the rate of pice increase to 45 to the rupee they will then sell only for their value as copper. Pice became depreciated in this manner. A great number of surrafs subsist by trading in them. The poor people who bring their goods to market and obtain payment in pice find it necessary to convert them into silver. The above surrafs insist of having one pice profit on every rupee given for pice and thus obtain 33 in the first instance, 32 being the mint rate. If any person goes to convert a rupee into pice, they would perhaps give 32 1/2 but then again on pice being at second time brought to them for rupees, they would demand 33½ or 34. In this way the rate goes on increasing till it is checked by the copper coinage attaining the market rate of copper. The old Rajah (Raghojee) used to check this depreciation in the value of pice, by which he must have sustained a considerable loss in his customs, by ordering all the pice to be bought up at the market rate and by selling them again at whatever rate he pleased. In this way he must have derived a double profit, and one nearly of the same nature as that which is effected by a new coinage of a different weight from the preceding one. The disadvantages of a new coinage consists in the trouble and loss suffered by the Ruyt (public) and by the pice surraff in getting rid of their old pice and bringing new. The immediate loss thereby is seldom of much consequence as copper in the shape of pice has generally attained the market price of the commodity as is nearly the case at present at which rate it is usual to receive the old pice at the mint. Perhaps all the advantages of a new coinage might be as well and more unexceptionally attained by purchasing up the pice when much fallen in value and selling them again at a fair rate. This might be deemed a more fit speculation for merchants than for Government but if the former for want of enterprise, capital or other causes neglect to do so, perhaps with the view of preventing much loss in delay, it might become advisable to buy up pice on the part of Government".

Appendix – 11

Demand for Expansion and Machine-struck Coinage

By the end of 1823 all the repercussions of the adulterations were over. Resident Jenkins then put forth a demand for expansion and repairs to the mint and for an improved system of coining. He made a very lengthy report based on the Question-Answers, Assay report and other reports prepared by Dr Gordon and sent it to George Swinton, Secretary to the Government. The first half of his letter or report is almost a repetition of the information detailed by Dr Gordon. The second half is reproduced here from the *Jubbelpore Divisional Records*, Political Department, 15th November 1823.

"The expenses of coinage independently of the pay of the mint officers is about 1 per cent and the present establishment can coin about 20000 rupees per diem. This cannot be increased because the buildings are of a rude structure and are at present in a very bad state. Whether a native system of coinage be continued or machinery adopted, a considerable expense must be incurred on this account though much less probably in the former than the latter, case. The advantage of having a milled coinage would be great and if it shall be decided that the coinage is to be raised to either of the standards proposed by Mr. Mackenzee or indeed whatever may be the standard, if the mint is to remain under our control, I cannot hesitate to recommend that we should be enabled by the assistance of Government to establish one.

From the estimates with which I have been furnished, it appears that buildings for machinery required to coin 10,000 rupees per diem would cost (in Bengal) sicca rupees 51,928, annas 14, ps. 11 and that the price of whole machinery as now used in Calcutta mint could be sicca rupees 8180. The native establishment would cost sicca rupees 326-8 per mensem. The expense under the head of buildings would probably be considerably greater at Nagpore but it would be well bestowed and without it I conceive that any reform of the coinage should be in a great degree rendered ineffectual as to the permanency of its effects.

If it is the wish of the Government to extend the Furrukhabad currency over the whole of India, I can see no reason why the Nagpore coinage should not be made the same as the Furrukhabad rupee both in quality and impression, I should think equally necessary to render the coins of equal credit in the same country, even should the weights be different. The only objection to this would be the eventual transfer of the mint to the native Government, for the impression on the Nagpore rupee is in no shape, what may be called that of the piece so as to render its alterations at all derogatory to the rights of the state which issued it. The regional stamp was furnished or authorised by the Emperor of Delhi, and in a state situated as this is, we might fairly exercise a similar right of prescribing a new stamp.

Mr. Mackenzee recommended the adoption of the Furrukhabad Rupees or, if the change to that from the present currency should be too great, of one of the same quality in the proportions of pure silver and alloy and so adjusted that 17 annas shall be equal to a Furrukhabad rupee.

This would raise the value of currency and would endanger the power of capital, lower profits, retard circulation, cramp the operations of commerce and credit and bring the Rajah Government to the verge of bankruptcy.

To meet therefore Mr. Mackenzie's suggestions of so regulating the Nagpore coinage as regards Farrukhabad rupees I would propose that one rupee two annas of the former should be equal to one rupee of the latter. The Nagpore rupee would thus be 16/18 of the Furrukhabad rupee and would contain pure silver grains 146.857 and 100 Furrukhabad rupees would equal 112.8 Nagpore rupees. Perhaps too in this case the Nagpore rupee might be reckoned equal to 14 Furrukhabad anas considerable to admit of the conversion.

The alloy should be 13.337 grains making the weight 160.199.

As Doctors Gordon and Wylie find it difficult to refine the bullion, the officers of the Calcutta mint could later suggest to us the most simple mode of doing it or perhaps it could be done at some of the Company's mints and an equivalent of pure silver be furnished in exchange.

After every degree of deliberations which I can give to the subject, the finding is the plan which I beg to suggest. 1st that a new mint with the requisite holdings and machinery used in Calcutta or Furrukhabad be established at Nagpore.

2nd that a new milled coinage shall be issued from it corresponding in quality and impression with the Furrukhabad Rupee but of an inferior value to be denominated the Nagpore Rupee, the following to be the weight and standard:

Weight grains	Pure silver grains	Alloy grains
160.194	146.857	13.337

3rd that the Nagpore mint shall be declared the joint concern of the British and Nagpore Government and shall be rendered subject to similar regulations and checks in every respect as those adopted in the Company's mint.

4th that a mint master and assay master shall be appointed with such salaries and establishments as the Governor-General in the council may be pleased to assign for them.

5th that the dies for striking the coin and stamped weights for regulating receipts and payments in it, shall be furnished by the mint master in Calcutta.

6th that the Nagpore rupee shall continue to be the currency of the acquired districts and that the expenses of the new establishment of the mint and recoinage, shall be borne by the Nagpore and British Governments, in the proportions of their respective revenues in the acquired and reserved districts.

7th that the same signorage shall be charged in the Nagpore mint as in that of Furrukhabad and a proportionate division of the profits be made between the two Governments as of the expenses.

8th that the Nagpore mint shall be authorised to coin also for individuals on demand rupees of the Furrukhabad weights and standard and that they shall be received into the Rajah's treasuries and those of the acquired districts indiscriminately at the regular rate of exchange in the payments of the revenues though not perhaps be declared a legal tender."

Appendix – 12

Closure of the Mint

As we do not find any machine-struck Nagpore rupees, it may be understood that Resident Jenkin's demand for a machine-struck coinage, though approved by the Government,was probably not put into force.

By 1824, Dr Gordon had standardised the *Zariputka* rupee at 83.5 ruttees weight 7/8th of which i.e., 73 *ruttees* were pure, and the pice at 9 *mashas* each, that went for 64 to a rupee. This seems to have been continued until 1854 when the mint was closed. Both the coins, the *Zariputka* rupees and the *Trisooli* pice, are abundantly available even today. This reflects the fact that they were struck for a very long period of over 30 years. On the dissolution of the Nagpur kingdom in 1854 the mint was closed down and all the assets dismantled. Several Persian and Modi documents give details of the closure, a short account of which is given hereunder.

The Commissioner at Nagpur, Captain Elliot issued orders on 3rd August 1854 to make out the accounts of the mint and pay off the liabilities.

Coins given for finishing to coppersmiths and goldsmiths were outstanding as follows[10] :

4	Ghane (a measure)	Nadarkhan Ghankari Lohar
2-2	"	Bhau Ghankari
1-3-1	"	Sitaram Ghankari
1-3-1	"	Sakharam Ghankari
1-1	"	Laxman Chasniwala
12	"	Visaji Vadnerkar Saokar
14	"	Ramchandra Sikankar Saokar
14	"	Jagu Hari Saokar
4	"	Chimna Langdu Sonar
2-3	"	8 miscellaneous persons.

Due from stampers of blanks :

1 - 2	Ghane	-	Munnalal Sonar
1 - 2	"	-	Nagli Sonar
2 - 1	"	-	Nani Panchalin
1 - 2	"	-	Nagu Kapsha Sonar
1 - 2	"	-	Narayan Sonar
1 - 2	"	-	Ramvilas Sonar
1 - 2	"	-	Chimna Poshar Panchal
1 - 2	"	-	Sakharam Kothar Panchal
2 - 1	"	-	Bala Kakdu Panchal
1 - 2	"	-	Son Bansidhar Panchal
1 - 2	"	-	Bhagi and Guni Panchalin
1 - 2	"	-	Dilu Sevhan Sonar

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[10] File No. 8, *Old Vernacular Records* at C. P. Civil Secretariat, Nagpur.

The list of assets was as follows :
List - Mahal Silver mint Sanh 1264 month November, date 29

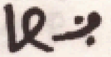
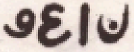
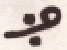
1. Goods in mint
   One box for keeping coins
   One weighing balance
   One anvil
2. Items near furnace
   2 vessel holders
   4 rifle pipes
   1 big iron spoon
   1 medium spoon
   1 iron rod
   2 tongs
   2 blowers
   1 anvil
   1 hammer
3. Items for goldsmiths
   55 anvils
   35 hammers
   1 big tongs
   Some small tongs
4. Items lying in the open space
   1 anvil
   2 hammers
   4 tongs
   1 blower
5. Miscellaneous
   1 jute rope
   7 wax holders
   6 rolls of hessian string
   16 brooms of Sindi leaves
   3 brass lamps
   38 brass wares of different sizes and shapes
   4 ink-pots

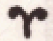
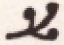
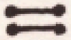
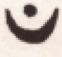
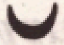
6. Items in Iron Room
   - 22 anvils
   - 20 rifle pipes
   - 70 iron plates
   - 1 iron weighing balance
   - 1 box of lead
   - 1 big spoon
   - 1 *Savangi*
7. Wooden Items
   - 13 boxes
   - 4 *Dongya*
   - 1 *Ghadochi*
   - 2 *Nishanya*
   - 25 fans of *Kabi*
   - 4 *Tople*
   - 2 *Hare*
   - 1 *Khurchi*
   - 4 *Kathoti*
8. Clothing
   - 1 bed
   - 2 bedsheets
   - 3 pillows
   - 2 pillow covers
   - 4 mattresses
   - 1 carpet.

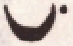
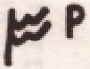
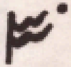
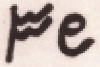
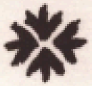
The assets were disposed of and the Nagpur mint closed.

Table of the Mint-Masters and Their Marks

The following table gives the details about various identifying marks found on Bhonsla silver coins alongwith the respective names of mint-masters and their coins.

Ruler(s)	Mint	Pseudo Mint name	Mint-master	Coin name	Marks	Period
1. Raghuji II and later Kings	Chanda	Surat	Hayatmiya Tanksale	*Sawa Char Shaee and Shumsheri*		1800-1818
2. Raghuji II, Parsoji II, and Appa Sahab.	Jabalpur	Cuttack	Nana Ghatge	*Jubbulpoori* and *Balashahi*		1800-1817
3. Raghuji I	Nagpur	Surat	Uncertain	*Fooliadar* and *old Raghujishahi*	Various floral marks	1730-1748
4. Raghuji I	Nagpur	Cuttack	Uncertain	*Shumsheri* and *Munjhola 7 San*		1754-1755

Ruler(s)	Mint	Pseudo Mint name	Mint-master	Coin name	Marks	Period
5. Raghuji II	Nagpur	Cuttack	Juswantrao Ramchandra	*Chowfoolia* and *Juswantrao-shahi*	+	1808-1814
6. Raghuji II	Nagpur	Cuttack	Manbhutt Upadhye or Joshi	*Padookashahi* and *Manbhuttshahi*		1808-1814
7. Raghuji II	Nagpur	Cuttack	Mulla Hunneef	*Teenboondia, Kullungidar* and *Raitopka*		1808-1814
8. Raghuji II and Parsoji II	Nagpur	Cuttack	Angnoolala	*Doboondia* and *Ungnooshahi*		1815-1816
9. Appa Saheb and Raghuji III	Nagpur	Cuttack	Shivaram	*Naldar*		1817-1818
10. Raghuji III	Nagpur	Cuttack	Ramjee Tanteea	*Naldar*		1818-1819

Ruler(s)	Mint	Pseudo Mint name	Mint master	Coin name	Marks	Period
11. Raghuji II	Nagpur	Cuttack	Nursinghrao Ballal	*Naldar*		1819-1820
12. Raghuji III	Nagpur	Cuttack	Dr Gordon alongwith Captain Pew	*Zariputaka*		1820
13. Raghuji III	Nagpur	Cuttack	Dr Gordon alongwith Bacharam	*Zariputaka*		1820-1824
14. Raghuji III	Nagpur	Cuttack	Dr Gordon	*Zariputka-Bootta*		1825-1854
15. Appa Saheb	Sohagpur	Uncertain	Siddiq Ali Khan	*Sohagpoori*		1817-1818

Abbreviations

BM -	British Museum.
Bundle Correspondence Records -	Unpublished Bundle of Correspondence; C. P. Civil Secretariat, Nagpur.
g -	Grammes.
IMC -	*Indian Museum Catalogue.*
JNSI -	*Journal of the Numismatic Society of India.*
ND -	*Numismatic Digest.*
NMC -	*Nagpur Museum Catalogue.*
NS -	*Numismatic Supplements to the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.*
SCWC -	*Standard Catalogue of World Coins,* 12th edition.
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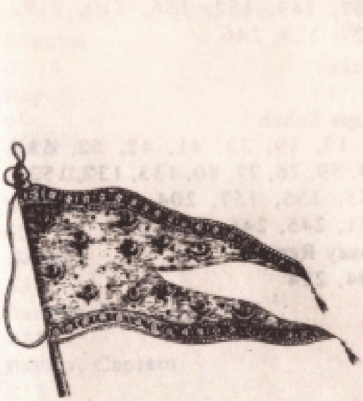

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